1.2 (MACRO) PSYCHOLOGY AND GLOBAL HEALTH

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Outline

• Definitions of global health and (macro)psychology

• Determinants of global health

• Socioeconomic conditions, psychosocial factors and health

• The WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health
Definition of public health

“The science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through the organized efforts of society.”

- Sir Donald Acheson
Global Health
Definition of International Health

...a subspecialty that “relates more to health practices, policies and systems...and stresses more the differences between countries than their commonalities.”

Global Health Education Consortium
“the application of the principles of public health to problems and challenges that affect low and middle-income countries and to the complex array of global and local forces that influence them.”

Merson, Black and Mills, 2006
## International Health vs. Global Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Global health</th>
<th>International health</th>
<th>Public health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geographical reach</strong></td>
<td>Focuses on issues that directly or indirectly affect health but that can transcend national boundaries.</td>
<td>Focuses on health issues of countries other than one's own, especially those of low-income and middle-income.</td>
<td>Focuses on issues that affect the health of the population of a particular community or country.</td>
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<td><strong>Level of cooperation</strong></td>
<td>Development and implementation of solutions often requires global cooperation.</td>
<td>Development and implementation of solutions usually requires binational cooperation.</td>
<td>Development and implementation of solutions does not usually require global cooperation.</td>
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<td><strong>Individuals or populations</strong></td>
<td>Embraces both prevention in populations and clinical care of individuals.</td>
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<td>Mainly focused on prevention programmes for populations.</td>
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<td><strong>Access to health</strong></td>
<td>Health equity among nations and for all people is a major objective.</td>
<td>Seeks to help people of other nations.</td>
<td>Health equity within a nation or community is a major objective.</td>
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<td><strong>Range of disciplines</strong></td>
<td>Highly interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary within and beyond health sciences</td>
<td>Embraces a few disciplines but has not emphasised multidisciplinarity.</td>
<td>Encourages multidisciplinary approaches, particularly within health sciences and with social sciences.</td>
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*Table: Comparison of global, international, and public health*

*Source: Koplan, 2009*
(Macro)Psychology
(Macro)Psychology

• “A macro perspective within psychology, akin to that found in macroeconomics”

• “Macro-psychology is the application of psychology to factors that influence the settings and conditions of our lives”

• “Psychology is both a driver and a product of globalization, traversing individual and global identities, which are becoming increasingly entwined”

• “Human survival and well-being is now embedded in a complex interdependent global web of economic, political, social, technological and environmental events, forces and changes”

Source: Maclachan, 2014
Macro and micro perspectives on psychology

MACROSCOPIC

I. Macro-objective
Examples – society, law, bureaucracy, architecture, technology, and language

II. Macro-subjective
Examples – culture, norms, and values

MICROSCOPIC

III. Micro-objective
Examples – patterns of behavior, action, and interaction

IV. Micro-subjective
Examples – perceptions, beliefs; the various facets of the social construction of reality