



\* Please bring this invitation with you

\* Please note the venue details

**International Institute for Society and Health  
2008 / 2009 Public Seminar Series**

**You are invited to attend on:**

**Tuesday, 14 July, at 5pm**  
(followed by drinks at 6.30pm)

**FINANCIAL CRISIS AND HEALTH**

**Chair:** **Sir Michael Marmot**, MRC Research Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, University College London; Director, UCL International Institute for Society and Health

**Speakers:** **David Blane**, Professor of Medical Sociology, Imperial College London.

**Mel Bartley**, Professor of Medical Sociology, University College London; Director ESRC International Centre for Life Course Studies in Society and Health.

**Eric Brunner**, Reader in epidemiology, University College London; Investigator, Whitehall II study.

**Abstract:** ONS data shows the UK unemployment rate rose 1.8% to 7.1% (by 592,000 to 2.2 million people) over the year to March 2009. There are now more benefit claimants than at any time since August 1997 (1.51 million). Job vacancies fell by one third over the year to April 2009 (by 232,000 to 455,000). The health impacts of the recession are complex and diverse. For those people, and their families, made redundant and unable to find new work, or unable to enter the labour market, physical and mental health may be compromised. For those who remain in work, lower price inflation and in some sectors, price deflation, may improve well-being. While the data is not available for the present recession, evidence from past economic downturns provides us with some insights into health consequences. Among these, recent national census data shows excess rates of mortality and limiting long-standing illness among those unemployed compared to those employed. The extent to which such effects are attributable to unemployment itself, or to social circumstances linked to risk of unemployment, is an important question for the present recession. Health consequences may be very different for those who lose a job at the LDV van plant in contrast to those who lose a job at the Royal Bank of Scotland. International comparisons suggest effective labour market intervention and social protection does reduce the health impact of economic shocks.

The expert panel will lead discussion on the public health dimensions of the financial crisis. Short presentations will be followed by questions and discussion of the research and policy issues. David Blane will talk about change in population health during past recessions. Mel Bartley will summarise research evidence of the effect of unemployment on mental and physical health. Eric Brunner will outline some policy and inequality dimensions of unemployment and recession.

**Venue:**

UCL Roberts Building G06, Torrington Place (opposite Waterstones), London WC1E 7JE

Nearest Underground station: Euston Square or Goadge Street. Warren St is also within walking distance.

**Email:** [iish@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:iish@ucl.ac.uk)

This public seminar forms part of the 2009 UCL Health & Society summer school programme.

You may access audio recordings of our some past seminars at: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/iish/seminars.htm>

This seminar is free but please note seats cannot be reserved and are allocated on a first come first served basis.