



Biosociology: From Proteins to People (and Back)

Workshop

Prof. Dalton Conley, New York University

Friday May 4, 2012

9 a.m. – 15.30 p.m., Room A 310

An enormous body of literature documents the salience of social structures – such as race, class, gender, and even birth order – to health and developmental outcomes. Likewise, a voluminous research tradition shows the importance of biological traits and conditions at various points in the life course to socioeconomic outcomes. This bidirectional relationship holds at all units of analysis: individuals, families, neighborhoods, even entire societies.

This workshop will investigate how biological processes and society are linked. Some key questions are: How does social status affect (and is determined by) health status both within and across generations? How do geography, physical environment, and health affect countries' trajectories of economic development over the course of centuries? How do genes and environment interact to produce outcomes – and more importantly, how might social scientists go about studying this? How could we integrate the central dogma of molecular biology (DNA RNA Protein) into social analysis?

Please register per email to bgss@hu-berlin.de.

Dalton Conley is Dean for the Social Sciences and University Professor at New York University. He holds faculty appointments in NYU's Sociology Department, School of Medicine and the Wagner School of Public Service. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Community Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and as a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Conley's research focuses on the determinants of economic opportunity within and across generations. In this vein, he studies sibling differences in socioeconomic success; racial inequalities; the measurement of class; and how health and biology affect (and are affected by) social position. Conley holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Columbia University and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Biology at the Center for Genomics and Systems Biology at NYU, studying phenotypic capacitance and socially regulated genes.

The workshop is organized by the project group „Demography and Inequality“ and cosponsored by the Social Science Research Center (WZB) and the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences (BGSS).

Invitation



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