

CRD SEMINAR

Professor Mark Petticrew
Department of Social and Environmental Health
Research, Faculty of Public Health and Policy,
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine



Wednesday 16 November 2011

13:30 – 14:30

Seminar Room (A19/20)

Mark Petticrew is Professor of Public Health Evaluation in the Department of Social and Environmental Health Research in the Faculty of Public Health and Policy at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

His research has involved primary research on the health effects of housing, urban regeneration, transport and employment interventions. He has also worked on systematic reviews of the effects on health and health inequalities of employment, housing, transport and tobacco control policies.

He is one of the convenors of the Cochrane/Campbell Health Equity Group, and is an editor of the Cochrane Public Health Review Group.

Systematic Reviews of Complex Interventions

There is ongoing interest among practitioners, policymakers and researchers in how evidence of the effects of complex interventions can be produced, and synthesized.

This interest stems partly from the need to further develop the evidence base on the effectiveness of healthcare and public health interventions. In tandem with this is an awareness that synthesising this evidence base becomes more challenging as one moves along the spectrum from simpler towards more complex interventions. This is partly because more complex interventions can involve multimethod evaluation approaches which are not limited to RCTs alone. For example, they may involve observational designs to estimate health and other impacts. They may also collect qualitative and other data to explain how interventions work and to explore how the intervention interacts with its context.

Shepperd et al. (2009) note for example the role of supplementary evidence such as policy documents, and qualitative or quantitative descriptive data. However it is also important not to overstate the challenges “Complexity is a strategy used by professional elites to maintain control. Proclaiming that a problem is complex is shorthand for saying that you have no role in solving it.” (Roberts & Edwards, 2011).

This seminar will consider both challenges and solutions.

All welcome!