

Assessment Paper Dr. N. Wittmann: Economic Reasoning on the Correlation between Life Expectancy and Economic Development: Exploring Alternative Routes
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The discussion paper “Economic Reasoning on the Correlation between Life Expectancy and Economic Development: Exploring Alternative Routes” sets out to shed light on a highly current and relevant topic in public health research from a new perspective. It focusses on the relationship between economic inequality and its impact on life expectancy. As for now, the vast majority of research has applied a macroeconomic perspective, emphasizing that the more equal the economic distribution of wealth the higher are life expectancies at a large scale (Wilkinson & Marmott, 2003; CSDH 2008; Wilkinson and Pickett, 2010). Dr. Wittmann employs a new perspective through starting with the micro level and how this is related to health by defining health as a resource and thus people becoming resource owners of health and sickness. It combines the idea of health as a good and further as an economic good. The direction of this approach is relevant in a sense that it in order to procure equal health for all, not only the policy level but also the micro level plays a pivotal role and therefore agency becomes of importance. In times where redistribution of resources in a globalized world poses an immense challenge, this perspective deserves further exploration.