



Social Capital, Economics and Health: Overview

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Opening talk

October 10, 2008



**University of
California,
Berkeley**

**The Nicholas C. Petris Center
on Health Care Markets & Consumer Welfare**



Overview

- What is social capital?
- Growth in social capital literature
- Social capital measures
- Social capital and smoking
- Social capital and mental health
- Social capital and cardiovascular disease
- Social capital in the third world

What is Social Capital?

Economists

- The institutions, relationships, and norms that shape the quality and quantity of a society's social interactions. It is not just the sum of the institutions which underpin a society, it is the glue that holds them together - *World Bank Website*
- Individual's social characteristics that enable private returns via interaction with others. Total social capital is an aggregation that takes into account all externalities.

Edward Glaeser, Harvard University

Bruce Sacerdote, Dartmouth College

David Laibson, Harvard University

Selected Social Capital Definitions

Economists

- A set of mechanisms in which groups implicitly enforce certain behaviors among their members.

Steven Durlauf, University of Wisconsin

- Interaction of trust-cooperation complex and networks:
 - Trust-cooperation complex: trust makes cooperation easier.
 - Networks. The larger the trust network, the larger the private return.

Martin Paldam, University of Aarhus

Social Capital Controversy: Skepticism

Economists

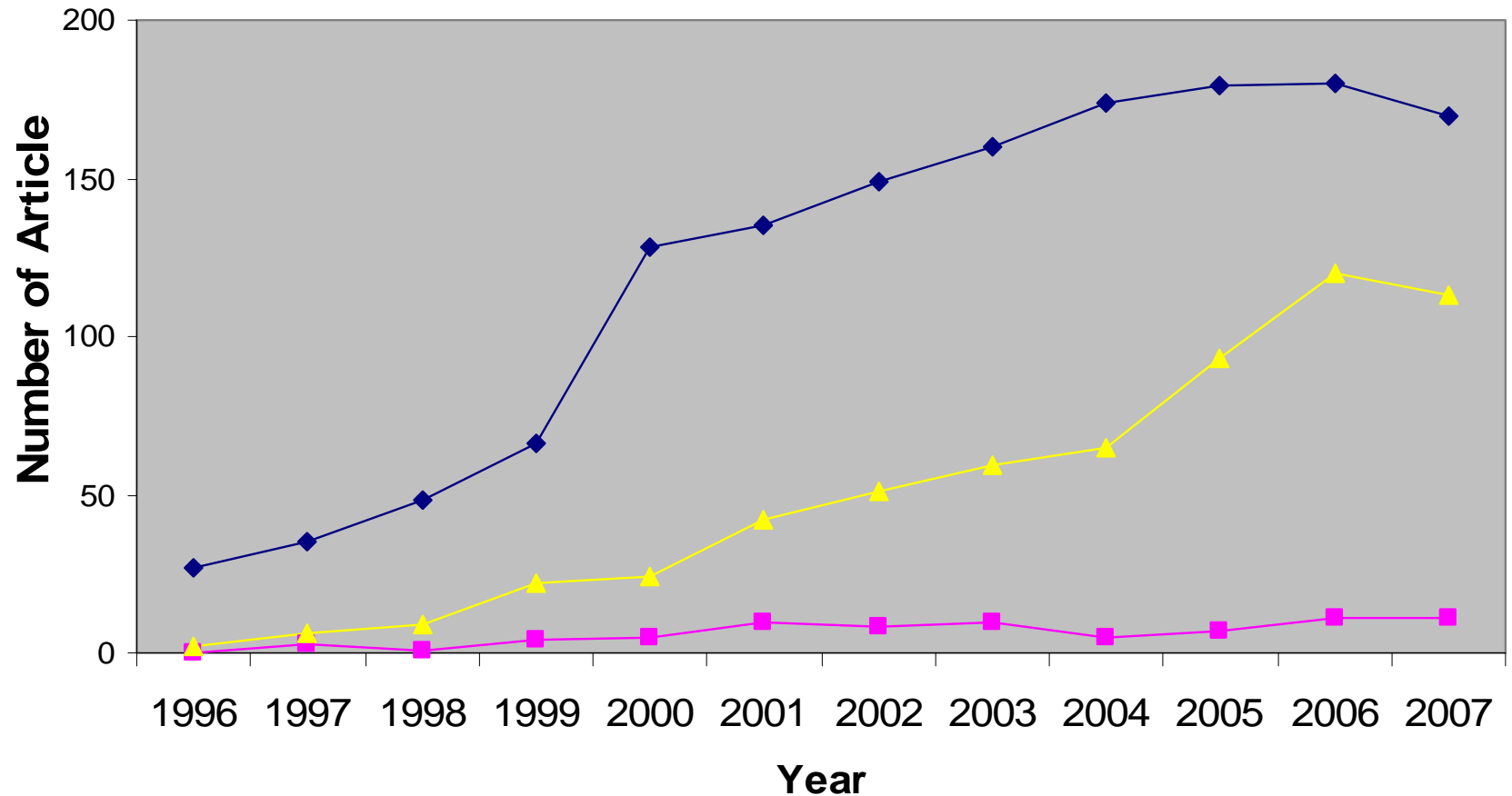
- I would urge the abandonment of the term “social capital”. The essence of social networks is that they are built up for reasons other than their economic value to the participants. Indeed, that is what gives them their value in monitoring.

Kenneth Arrow, Stanford University, Nobel Laureate

- It seems to me that this is what we should be studying: what is the available repertoire of behavior patterns in this situation or that, and how does one of them come to be entrenched as the standard?...I do not see how dressing this set of issues in the language and apparatus of capital theory helps much one way or the other.

Robert Solow, MIT, Nobel Laureate

Articles Regarding Social Capital in Literature Have Increased Over Past 12 Years



◆ EconLit

■ EconLit-SC & Health

▲ PubMed



Social Capital Measures

- ◆ Cognitive (trust)
- ◆ Structural (cooperation, networks)

Petris Social Capital Index:

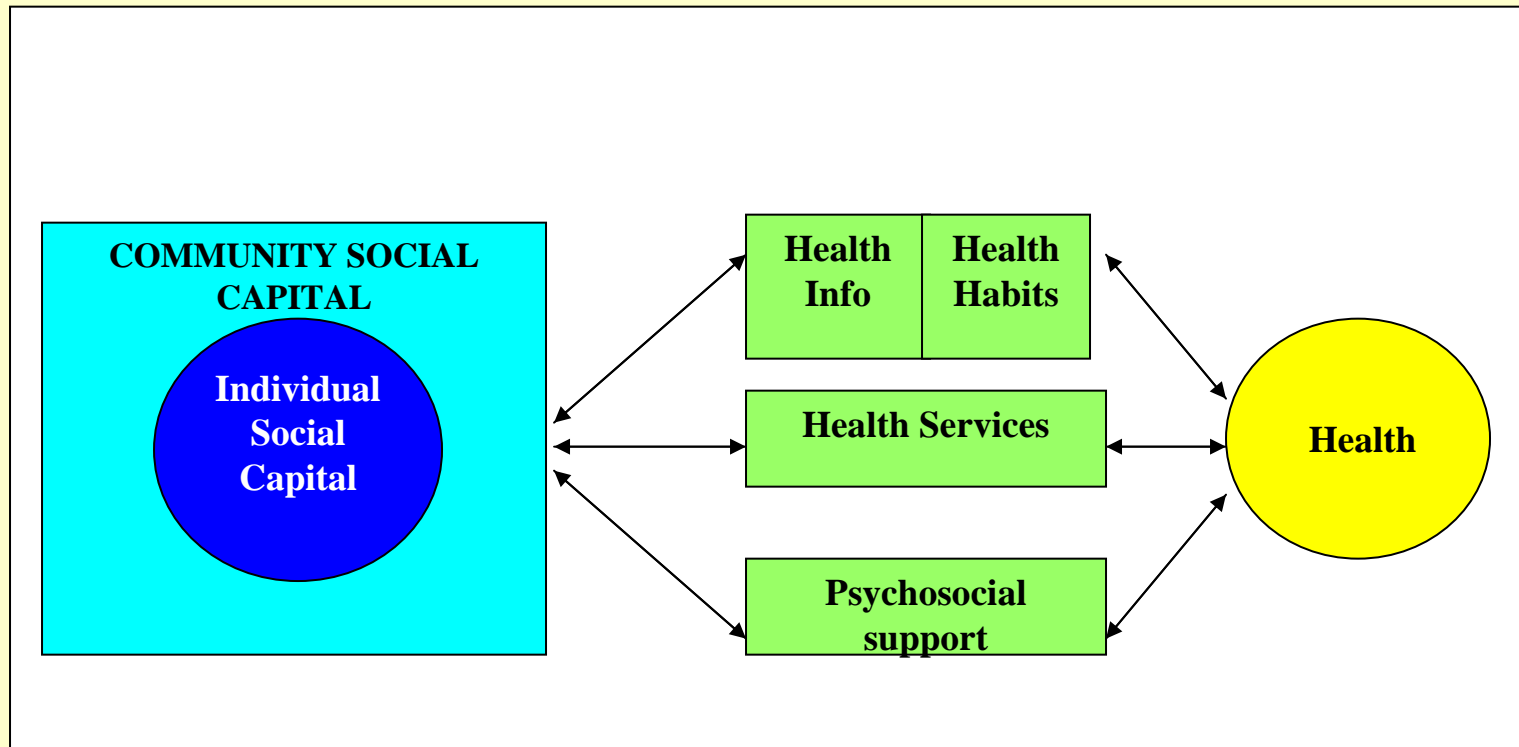
- Putnam's Measure
 - Membership in voluntary organizations.
 - Data sources: Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey
- Petris Measure
 - Employment in voluntary organizations
 - Data source: County Business Patterns (U.S. Census)
- Match organizational types
- Compute community social capital measure as the ratio of

$$\frac{\text{Total employment}}{\text{Total area population}}$$

Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey

- Charity or Social Welfare Organization
- Professional, trade, farm or business association
- Hobby, Investment, or Garden club
- Youth Organization
- Neighborhood Association
- Literary, Art, or Musical Group
- Service or Fraternal Organization
- Self-help Program
- Parent Association or other School Support Group
- Political Group
- Organization Affiliated with Religion
- Seniors Groups
- Sports Club, League, or Outdoor Activity Club
- Ethnic, Nationality, or Civil Rights Organization
- Other kinds of Clubs or Organizations
- Veterans Group
- Labor Union
- Group that meets over the Internet

Social Capital Measure: Predictive Validity



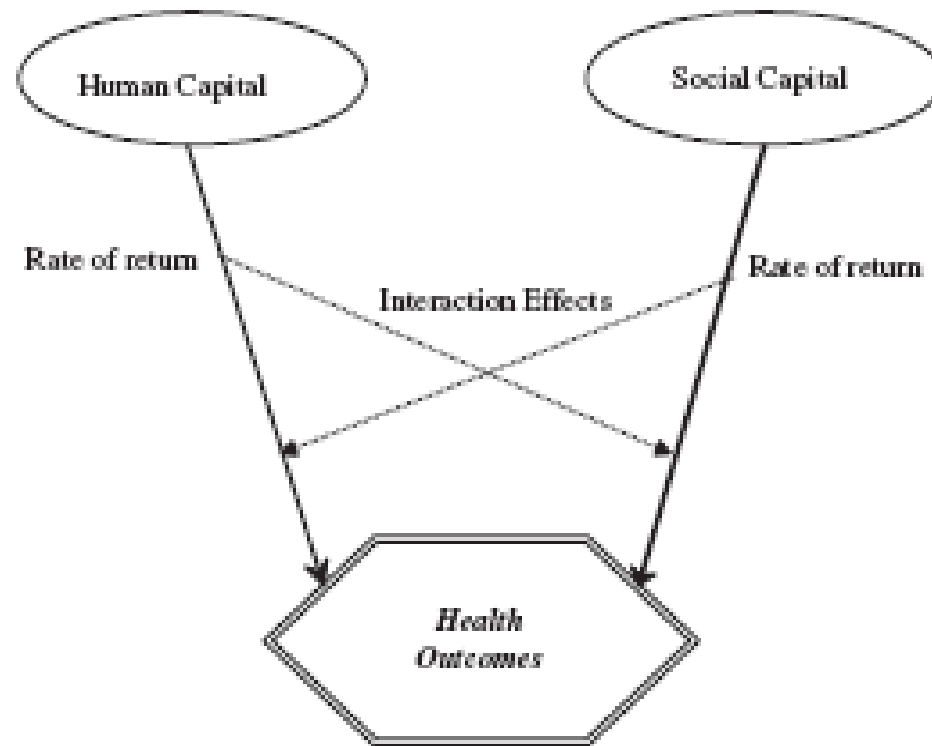


Figure 1. *The interrelationships among human and social capital and health.*

October 10

9 h 30-10 h 00

- **General Introduction**
Richard Scheffler

10 h 00-10 h 40

- **Education, social capital and health care**
 - The impact of education and social capital on treatment outcome for patients with colorectal cancer
Eline Aas, and Tor Iversen

10 h 40-10 h 50

Coffee break

10 h 50-12 h 50

- **Social Integration, Social Capital and Access to Health**
Paul Dourgnon, Michel Grignon, and Florence Jusot et Caroline Berchet
- **Aging, Social Capital, and Utilization of Health Services in Canada**
Audrey Laporte, Eric Nauenberg and Leilei Shen
- **Study on social capital and health care quality**
Chris Brown Mahoney and Timothy T. Brown

12 h 50-14 h 00

Lunch

14 h 00-15 h 20

- **Child health outcomes and their relationship with social capital or social capital and education**
 - The relationship between Social Capital and the Health and Educational Outcomes of Children: the Role of Parental Education
Richard Scheffler, Brent FULTON and Timothy T. Brown
 - **Family Health and Social Capital**
Kelly Noonan, Nancy Reichman and Hope Corman

15 h 20-15 h 30

Coffee break

15 h 30-16 h 30

- **Social capital and health across Europe**
 - **The Contribution of Social Participation to Health Status: An International Comparison of Europeans Aged Fifty and Over**
Nicolas Sirven and Thierry Debrand

16 h 30-17 h 30

- **Education, Health and Social Capital: a Cross-country Analysis**
Franco Sassi, OECD
- **Policy implication of the findings on education, social capital and health**
Tom Schueller

October 11

9 h 30-10 h 30

- **Education, Social Capital and Health : Empirical framework**
D. Kenkel

10 h 30-10 h 40

Coffee break

10 h 40-12 h30

- **Study considering education, social capital and health, focusing predominantly on lifestyle choices**
 - **Social Capital, Education and Health in Argentina**
Lucas Ronconi, Richard Scheffler, Timothy T. Brown
 - **An inquiry into the relationship between education and health and social capital**
Francesca Borgonovi and K. Miyamoto
 - **On the Mechanisms that Link Area-Level Social Capital and Health: Education and Healthy Lifestyles**
Jangho Yoon

12 h 30-13 h 30

Lunch

13 h 30-14 h 50

- **Does social capital make you healthier?**
Beatrice D'Hombres, Lorenzo Rocco and Marc Suhrcke
- **Life-Course Financial Strain, Social Capital and Mental Health Model of Racial/Ethnic Disparities**
Patrick Richard

14 h 50-15 h 00

Coffee break

15 h 00-16 h 30

- **General discussion**