

What have we learned since the Black report?

Thursday 30th September & Friday 1st October 2004
University of St Andrews, Lower College Hall

It has now been almost 25 years since the publication of the Black Report. The report gained notoriety both for its content and the way in which it was released to the public. It highlighted significant variations in the distribution of disease and mortality across a range of social groups, and called for major government expenditure.

Interestingly, the report was suppressed when it was published, as it was not to Mrs Thatcher's liking. It was not printed and only 260 photocopies were distributed. However, the report had a huge impact on political thought in the United Kingdom and overseas and led to an assessment by the Office for Economic Co-Operation and Development and the World Health Organization of health inequalities in 13 countries.



Sir Douglas Black

This two-day conference examined the content of the Black Report and explored a range of important issues relevant to the work of individuals from the inequalities field today. For example, what changes in the cause and pattern of inequalities have occurred since 1980? What lessons have been learnt from both domestic and international policies on inequalities? And what are the likely future problems, obstacles and strategies? A range of national and international figures will provide their own academic, health and political perspectives.

The conference was held in St Andrews, and was particularly appropriate conference for the SDHI as Sir Douglas Black graduated from the University of St Andrews in 1940 with a Doctorate of Medicine, and conducted much of his training in Dundee. Sadly, Sir Douglas passed away recently and it was a pertinent time to reflect on the enduring relevance of the Black Report.





From left, speakers Erio Ziglio, James Dunn, Hugh MacDougall, Mike Kelly, Ray Earwicker and Paul Boyle

Time DAY 1	Activity	Presenter
1.00	Registration and Coffee	
1.30	Introduction/Welcome	Prof. Paul Boyle Founding Director SDHI Director Scottish Longitudinal Studies Centre
1.45	Black - the man behind the report	Prof. Hugh MacDougall Dean of School of Medicine University of St Andrews
2.00	Its all in the Geography - health and changes to the map of British society since the Black Report	Prof. Danny Dorling Quantitative Human Geography University of Leeds
2.40	A View from the Inside	Dr Ray Earwicker Health Inequalities Unit Department of Health
3.20	Coffee	
3.40	Black Across the Pond: A Canadian Perspective	Dr James Dunn Research Scientist/ Assistant Prof. Inner City Health Research Unit, St Michael's Hospital and University of Toronto
4.20	Public Health Policy on Inequalities: a Comparison of 14 Developed Countries	Prof. Iain Crombie Head of Department of Public Health, University of Dundee
7.00	Conference Dinner	
8.30	Rude Comments	Prof. Graham Watt Head of General Practice, University of Glasgow
DAY 2		
9.00	Health Inequalities: Research Concepts and Policy Goals	Prof Hilary Graham Institute for Health Research, Lancaster University
9.40	Tackling the inequalities? A policy retrospective	Dr Richard Mitchell Research Unit in Health, Behaviour and Change,

		University of Edinburgh
10.20	Bridging the gap between evidence and policy: the role of the Health Development Agency	Prof Mike Kelly Head of Research and Information Health Development Agency
11.00	Coffee	
11.20	Reducing Health Inequalities: Lessons and Challenges from an International Perspective	Erio Ziglio Head of Investment for Health and Development, WHO Regional Office for Europe
12.00	Is Health in Scotland Deteriorating and What Should we do about it?	Prof Phil Hanlon Professor of Public Health University of Glasgow
12.40	Summary and Thanks	Prof Paul Boyle Founding Director SDHI
1.00	Lunch	

