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Les inégalités sociales face à la santé:
constats, explications et politiques

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THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE THEORY IN BUILDING A PROGRAM OF RESEARCH ON SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN SMOKING

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The importance of social science theory in building a program of research on social inequalities in smoking

The objective of the presentation is to discuss, using the example of a programme of research on social inequalities in smoking, a few current and crucial issues in the area of social inequities in health that could benefit from the contribution of social scientific theory. The programme of research to be presented has both an etiological as well as a practice-based focus. Regarding the former, research using Pierre Bourdieu's practice theory and Anthony Giddens' structuration theory aims to better understand how smoking comes to be socially differentiated across geographical areas. In the latter project, social theory is being used to help explore the discourses used by tobacco control practitioners when describing youth smokers and the role that these discourses may inadvertently play in deepening social inequalities in smoking. Using the work of Michel Foucault to describe the role of governmentality in tobacco control, I will discuss the ways in which the Canadian tobacco control discourse on youth smoking is both "constituting and producing the smoker" as a poor, marginalized person.

Katherine L. Frohlich est professeure ordinaire au Département de médecine sociale et préventive, ESPUM, de l'Université de Montréal et chercheuse associée à l'Institut de Recherche en Santé Publique de l'Université de Montréal (IRSPUM). Professeure invitée à l'Institut de médecine sociale et préventive de l'Université de Lausanne pour l'année académique 2016-2017, ses recherches portent sur les inégalités face à la santé, sur la théorie sociale dans les champs de l'épidémiologie sociale et de la promotion de la santé, et sur la sociologie du tabagisme.