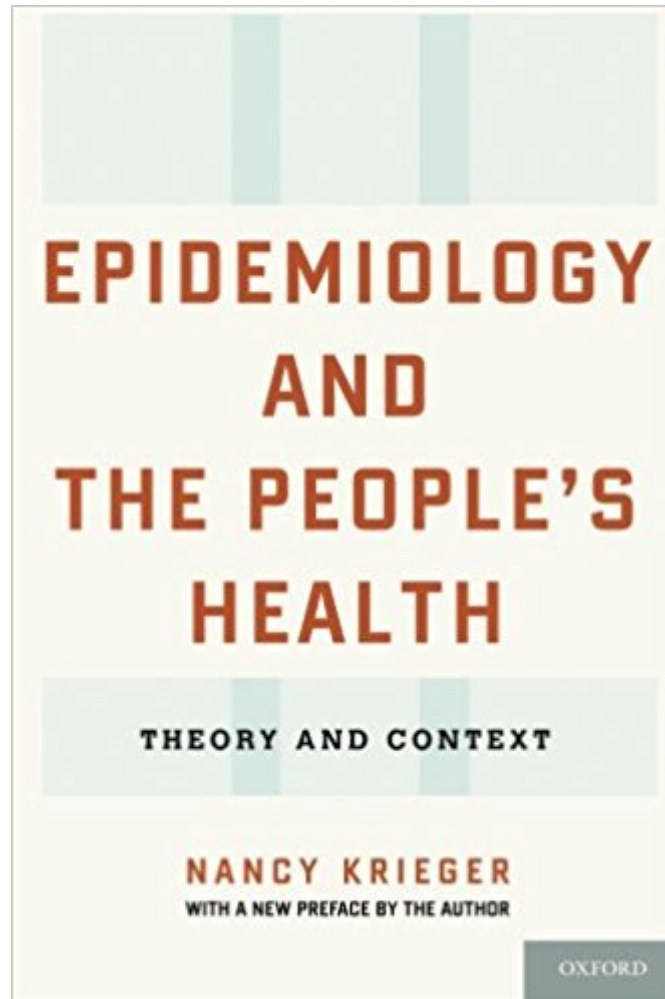


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Epidemiology And The People's Health: Theory And Context



Synopsis

Epidemiology is often referred to as the science of public health. However, unlike other major sciences, its theoretical foundations are rarely articulated. While the idea of epidemiologic theory may seem dry and arcane, it is at its core about explaining the people's health. It is about life and death. It is about biology and society. It is about ecology and the economy. It is about how myriad aspects of people's lives--involving work, dignity, desire, love, play, conflict, discrimination, and injustice--become literally incorporated into our bodies and manifest in our health status, individually and collectively. And it is about essential knowledge critical for improving the people's health and minimizing inequitable burdens of disease, disability, and death. Woven from a vast array of schools of thought, including those in the natural, social, and biomedical sciences, epidemiologic theory is a rich tapestry whose time for analysis is long overdue. By tracing its history and contours from ancient societies on through the development of--and debates within--contemporary epidemiology worldwide, Dr. Krieger shows how epidemiologic theory has long shaped epidemiologic practice, knowledge, and the politics of public health. Outlining an ecosocial theory of disease distribution that situates both population health and epidemiologic theory in societal and ecologic context, she offers a more holistic picture of how we embody the human experience.

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She really does dive into the theory behind epidemiology. Starting with what theory and science mean, and how we apply them. She also emphasizes that approaches to epidemiology are typically

biological OR socio-cultural, not both, and how that removes the context behind disease patterns since humans can have biological changes to social responses. She also argues for a more conscious effort to include consideration of our physical environments, because of the far reaching effects of global warming. I have just started the book, but it is fairly interesting for a theory text. It is also well researched and cited. She uses a lot of examples (including visuals) to help flush out the points she is making as well.

This text book is a must for any student of Public Health especially Epidemiology and a valued reference for those of us who are interested in the study of the social determinants that result in health inequalities.

As a professional epidemiologist, I found this an Informative and insightful book. The chapter on social epi was especially interesting. I would give the book five stars for content but the font is so small you practically need a magnifying glass. I would therefore recommend the kindle version.

This book should be required reading for anyone in public health. The author makes a compelling case that theories of disease distribution matter for both public health research and practice.

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