Philosophical tools for Quaternary Prevention (P4)

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Galen

The physician should also be a philosopher

Galenus, Dalimier C. Traités philosophiques et logiques
A-theoretical medicine?

Practice

Implicit theory

Roots
Philosophical roots for P4

• Positivism
• Critical theory
• Scepticism
• Ethical principles/virtues
• Constructivist approach: narrative based medicine

• Widmer D. Philosophical roots of Quaternary Prevention
## Critical theory
### Power relationships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Power</th>
<th>Consequence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pharma industry</td>
<td>Disease mongering</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Selling sickness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic organization</td>
<td>Publication bias</td>
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<td>Accent on quantitative over qualitative research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health insurances</td>
<td>Selection of good risks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Money</td>
<td>Unnecessary check-ups in healthy high class people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Philosophical roots for P4

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Philosophical roots or tools for P4

All theory is gray, my friend. But forever green is the tree of life. Goethe

Bergson. Homo sapiens/ Homo faber
Intelligence… is the faculty to create artificial objects, in particular tools to make tools.

GPs prefer tools to theories
Tools for P4

- Positivism: level of evidence
- Critical theory: health inequalities
- Constructivist approach: patient’s satisfaction, change, consensus, flash (emotional level), clinical supervision, work consultancy
What we learn

- Anamnesis + physical examination
- Paraclinical exams
References

References


Thank you