

Presentation to the Department of Bioethics
Dalhousie University
by
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“How can the Decommodified Security Ratio assess the economic security provided by healthcare and disability benefits”?

This presentation will introduce Dr. Menahem’s alternative well-being index - the “Decommodified Security Ratio” (DSR).

For those living in developed countries, there is a great deal of focus on the maintenance of a regular and stable income to ensure that daily expenses such as food, housing, and clothing are met. In other words, economic security is a foremost concern. Following Esping-Andersen, we can discern "commodified" security (i.e. dependant of the market work) and "decommodified" security (which is guaranteed regardless of the evolutions of the market economy). The decommodified security is provided by the contributions of social benefits and specific social welfare delivered to those in need. In order to get a synthetic index of both economic security and insecurity, I have built a Decommodified Security Ratio (DSR), which provides an assessment of how much a population is protected against the risk of poverty. By analysing the components of the DSR in 24 countries in 1999-2001, I highlight the importance of healthcare and disability benefits.

Date: Tue. Nov. 13, 2:00-3:30

Location: Qualitative Research Studio, Tupper Basement BA1 (adjacent to MedIT)