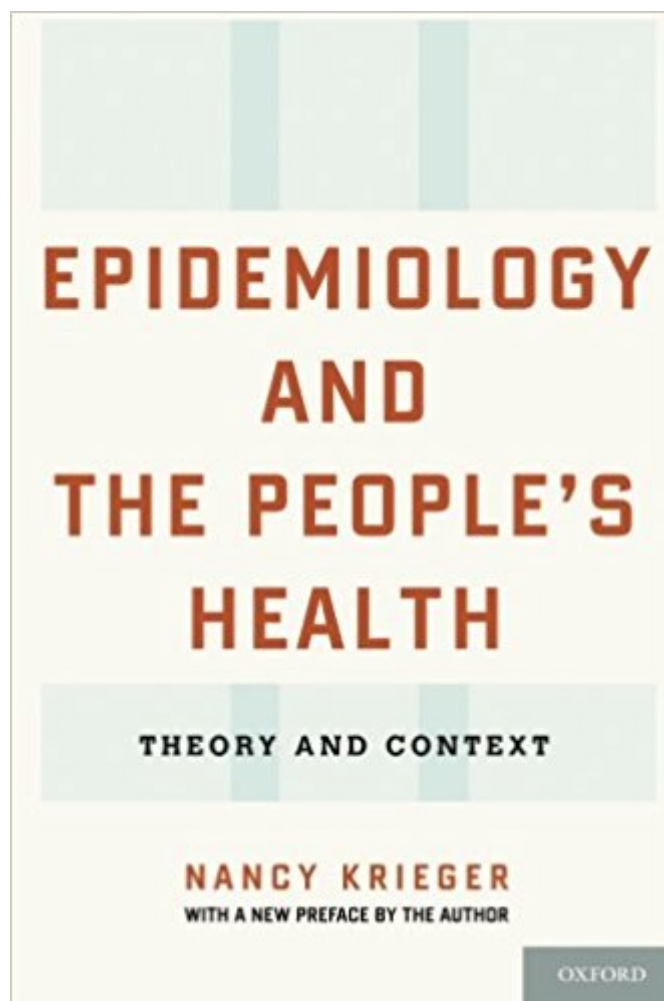


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# Epidemiology And The People's Health: Theory And Context



## 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.

## Book Information

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (September 12, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199348421

ISBN-13: 978-0199348428

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.8 x 6.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

"[Krieger] has written a large, well-structured, critically argued and exhaustively referenced book, the culmination of two decades of her wrestling with and writing about the fundamental questions: Does

epidemiologic theory exist; if not, should it exist; and what form should it take?" -- International Journal of Epidemiology "Ultimately, Epidemiology and the People's Health is required reading for epidemiologists interested in the evolution and emergence of theory in the field. We would argue that all epidemiologists should be so interested... this book firmly establishes the importance of theory in epidemiology. We look forward to reading the many works it will inspire." --American Journal of Epidemiology

Nancy Krieger, Ph.D., is Professor of Society, Human Development, and Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. She received her Ph.D. in Epidemiology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1989. In 1994 she co-founded, and still chairs, the Spirit of 1848 Caucus of the American Public Health Association, which is concerned with the links between social justice and public health.

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 book is soon to be a classic in public health. Nancy Krieger is an excellent scholar who's work has helped shaped the direction of social epidemiology and public health.

Krieger provides a wonderful overview of historical movements in epidemiology and where they fall short, as well as a path forward. Quick but extremely helpful read.

Excellent written, organized and researched book that provides a good background to social theory, especially for health and epidemiology professionals who have not had much exposure.

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.

Great Job

good

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 therefor recommend the kindle version.

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