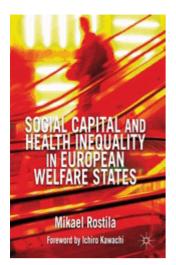
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Social Capital and Health Inequality in European Welfare States

Mikael Rostila

MIKAEL ROSTILA is an Associate Professor of Sociology and works as a Researcher at the Centre for Health Equity Studies (CHESS), Stockholm University, Sweden.

This book sets out unique findings on whether social capital influences health and health inequalities in European welfare states. Drawing on cross-national data from the European Social Survey (ESS) as well as Swedish national survey data and registers, the book develops a new theoretical definition of social capital that guides the books empirical studies. The findings suggest that welfare state generosity is a decisive factor for social capital and that social capital is of significance for health inequalities both between and within European welfare states. The book also discusses the potential dark sides of social capital and examines evidence of circumstances in which social capital has negative health externalities.

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Introduction Theoretical Foundations of Social Capital in Health Research Social Capital and Welfare: Do Universal Welfare State 'Crowd Out' or Stimulate Social Capital? Social Capital and Health: Mechanisms and Empirical Findings Health Inequalities by Education in European Welfare Regimes: The Contribution of Individual Social Capital Health Inequalities Between European Welfare Regimes: The Contribution of Collective Social Capital Social Capital and health Inequality in the Social-Democratic Swedish Welfare State The Dark Sides of Social Capital: Homophily and Closure of Immigrants Social Networks in the Swedish Welfare State Concluding Discussion

