

Medical sociology: introduction, history and development

Professor Stipe Orešković

'Andrija Štampar' School of Public Health

- Sociology - study of social causes and consequences of human behavior
- Medical sociology – concerned with social causes and consequences of health and illness

- social aspects of health and illness
- social functions of health organizations and institutions
- healthcare systems vs. social systems
- social behavior of health workers and users of health services
- patterns of health services

Complementarity and competitiveness of sociomedical and behavioral sciences

- medical anthropology - medical sociology
- social epidemiology - medical sociology
- public health - medical sociology

- Difference:

sociology of medicine – sociology in medicine

Subject or contents of medical sociology?

- main topics of Medical Sociology:
 - health behavior, health care system, doctor-patient relationship, medical profession, social determinants of health and illness, social structure and health, definitions of health and illness, organization of health services, financing of health services, medical ethics and bioethics, health and environment...

Origins, main initiatives and theories of western medical sociology

- main subjects of health maintenance and enhancement:
 - **individual – medicine – state**

- 16 basic conceptual breakthroughs of contemporary medical sociology indicate to:
 - dominance of U.S. medical sociology
 - theoretical dominance of Eliot Freidson ('Profession of Medicine')

- scientific conceptual innovations and professional institutionalizations important for development of medical sociology:
 - professional journals
 - sections, societies, associations
 - other forms of institutionalization: departments or divisions of medical sociology at universities or in institutes of public health