Measuring Socioeconomic Inequalities in Stress and Wellbeing at the Population Level

Socioeconomic disadvantage is conceptualised to be a chronic stressor and a key explanation of social inequalities in health. However, empirical associations between socioeconomic position and biological stress responses are often contradictory, with methodological limitations in many existing studies. This talk examines data from two large population longitudinal surveys from the UK, the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing and Understanding Society, and demonstrates how previous analyses may have underestimated the effects of socioeconomic inequalities in dysregulation of stress-response physiological systems.