

Vulnerable People and Chronic Pain and Addiction

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The Atlantic Mentorship Network-Pain & Addiction
Annual Conference
Friday, March 3, 2017
Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre. Halifax, Nova Scotia

Who is Robert Wright?



- Social Work Private Practitioner - Direct Practice and Forensics
- Former Ex.Dir., C&YS
- Former Ex.Dir., FCSCC
- Former Corr. Mental Health Counsellor, WSP
- Former Race Relations Coordinator of DDSB

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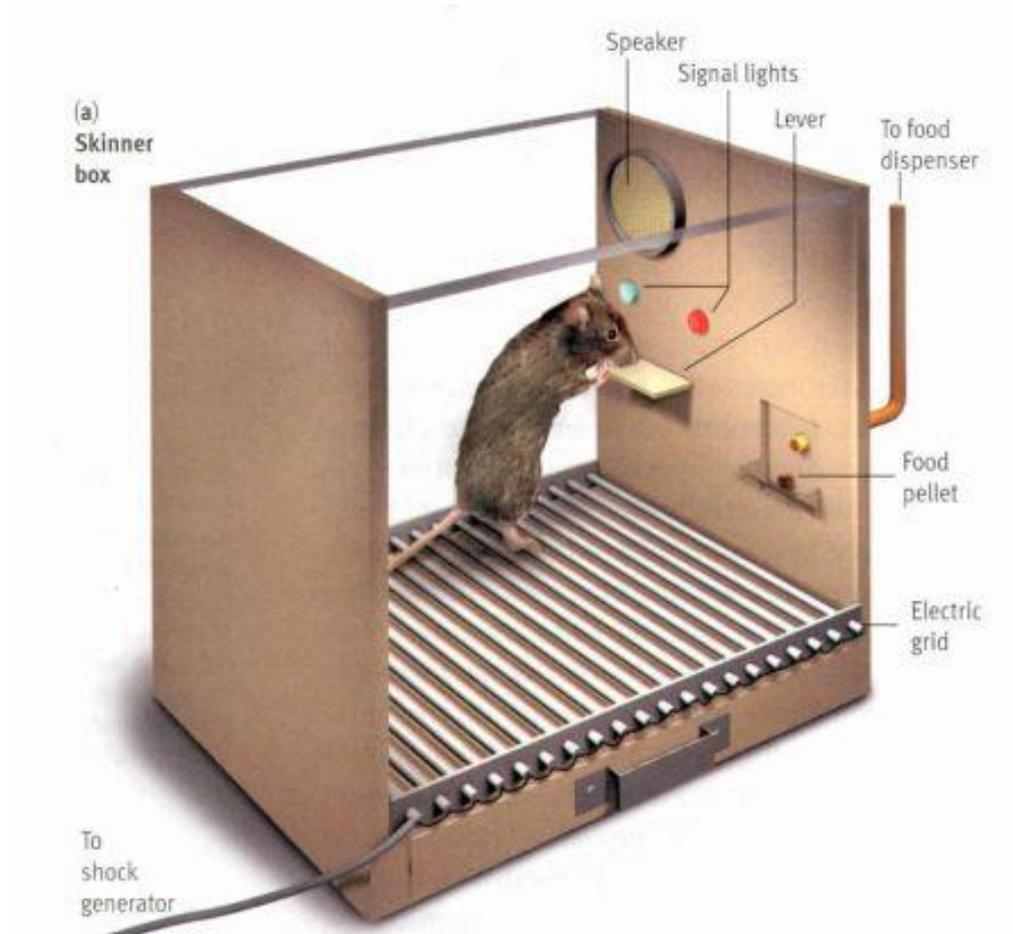
The Concept of Sufficiency

- Sufficiencyarianism: A new theory of social justice which asserts that the goals of resource distribution should be to ensure that those who fall below a certain threshold in society should have “enough”.

The Concept of Sufficiency

- Sufficiencyarianism can be compared and contrasted with other social justice views . . .
 - Egalitarianism
 - Prioritarianism
 - But what's the point of that?!
-
- We use the term Sufficiency here to refer to people having “enough”.

Sufficiency in the Laboratory

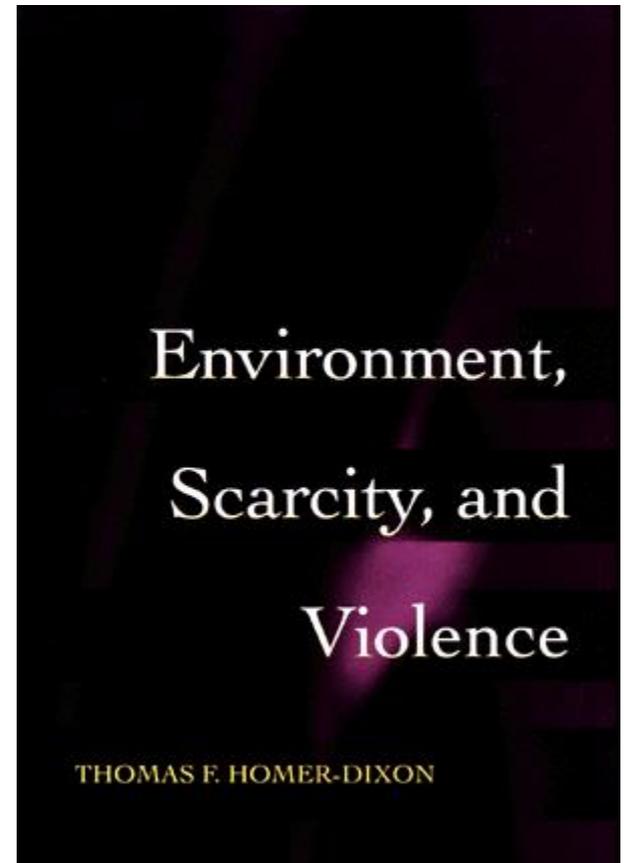


- Rats in a “Skinner Box”
- “Sufficiency” leads to calm, exploration
- Uncertainty leads to neurosis
- Futility leads to helplessness

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Sufficiency in Global Conflict

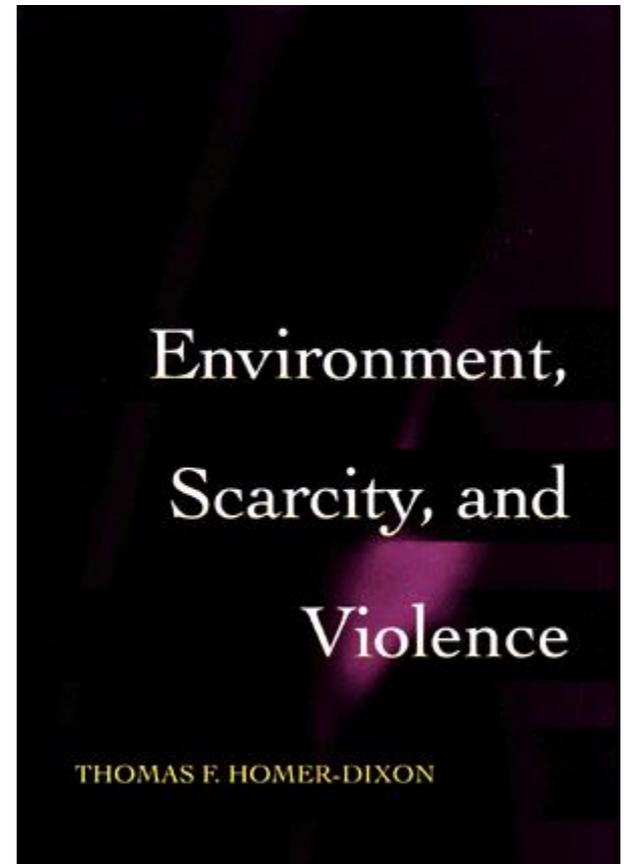
- Thomas Homer-Dixon, CIGI Chair of Global Systems at the Balsillie School of International Affairs, UW
- Associate Director of the Waterloo Institute for Complexity and Innovation



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Sufficiency in Global Conflict

- Thomas Homer-Dixon, CIGI Chair of Global Systems at the Balsillie School of International Affairs, UW
- Associate Director of the Waterloo Institute for Complexity and Innovation
- “In times of scarcity, people will not starve, they will raid their neighbors.”



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Sufficiency in Health Care

- If Sufficiency is about having “enough”
- Enough What? Is a reasonable question

Social Determinant

- Since the Lalonde report in 1974 we've recognized that health outcomes have less to do with health than social factors

PHAC Social Determinants

- Income and Social Status
- Social Support Networks
- Education and Literacy
- Employment/Working Conditions
- Social Environments
- Physical Environments
- Personal Health Practices and Coping Skills
- Healthy Child Development
- Biology and Genetic Endowment
- Health Services
- Gender
- Culture

Enough Money

- Income Assistance programmes and strategies are not sufficient
- “When your welfare worker provides you with contact information for local foodbanks you know that Income Assistance rates are understood by everyone to be insufficient”

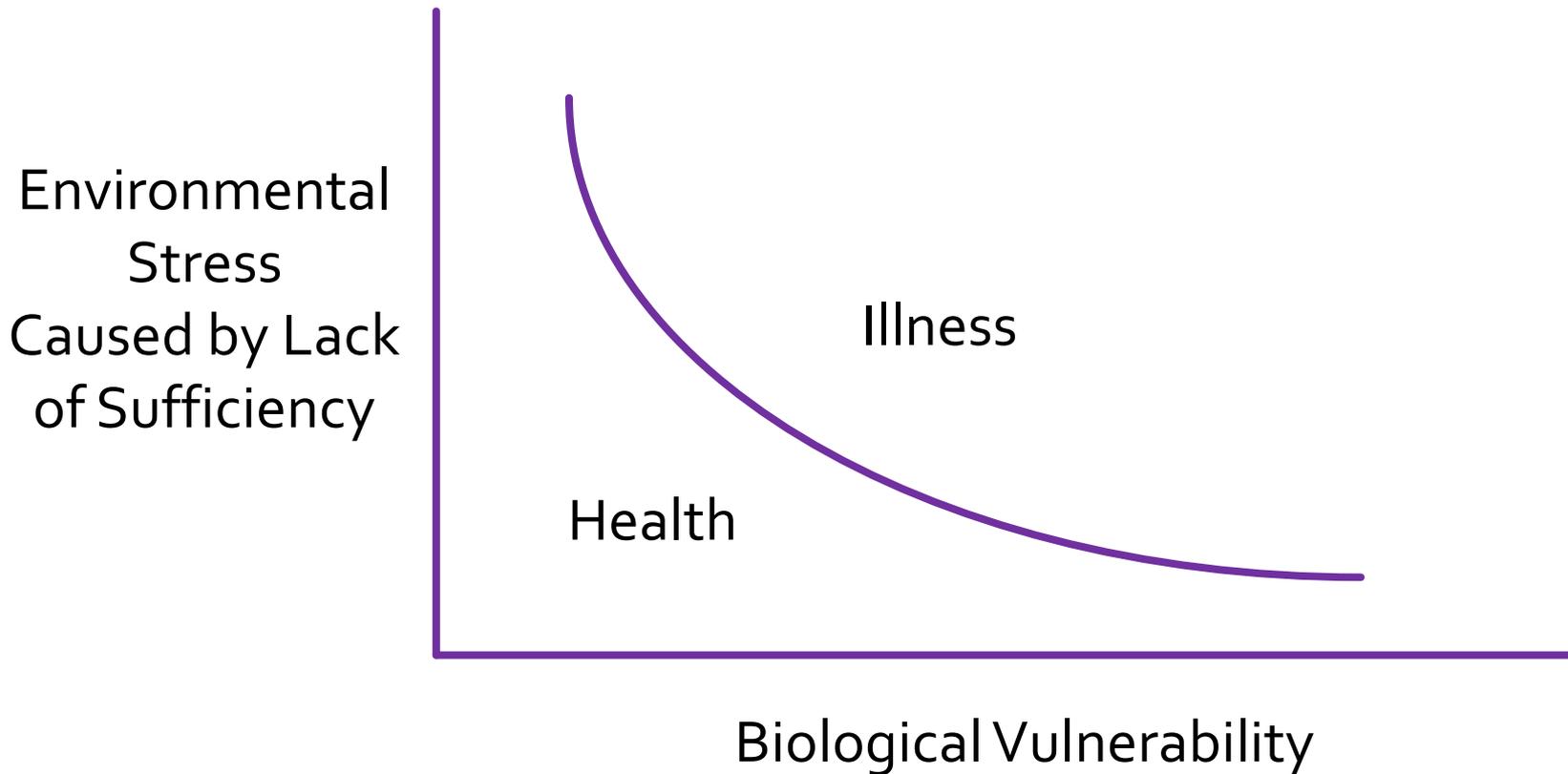
Economic Sufficiency

- Poverty has always been identified as a significant enemy of health
- Hugh Segal, Master of Massey College
- "Finding a Better Way"
 - Basic Income Pilot



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Sufficiency and Health



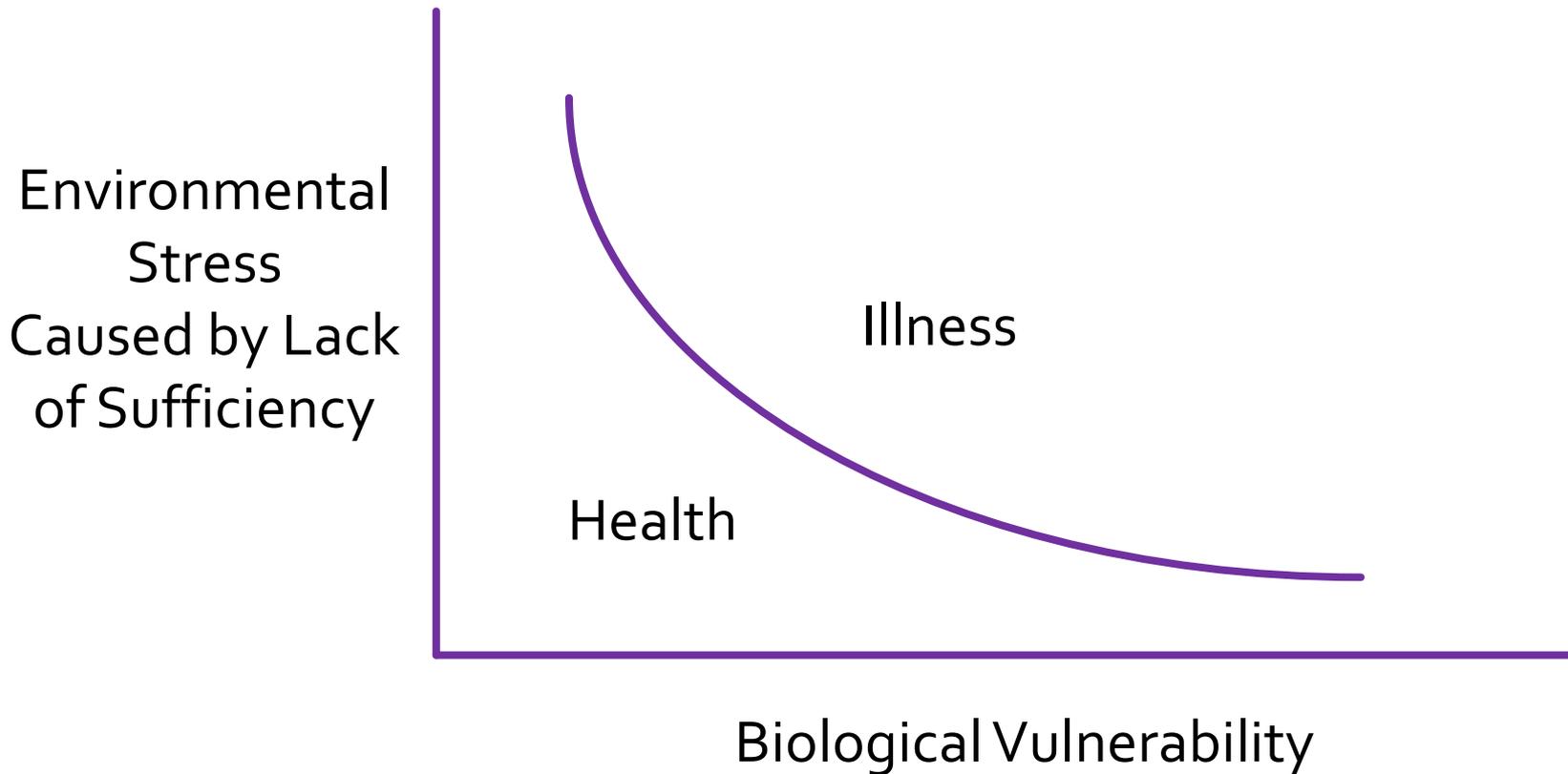
Advocacy and Activism

- With the knowledge of social determinants affect on health, the most effective health care interventions must look like activism

Social Justice Health Interventions

- Focusing on social determinants of health – interventions which change the social context for poor Canadians will create greatest health improvements
- Requires reframing the focus of intervention
- Requires skills of social justice and social policy advocacy
- Will require greater engagement with other professionals and sectors
- Advocate for greater power and independence for Public Health Officers

Keeping Sane



It's a Structural Conflict



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Final Thoughts, Q & A

