



School for Public Health Research @ LSHTM (SPHR@L)

**SPHR@L Seminar Series: 2013-2014**

A talk by **James Thomas**, **Ginny Brunton**, and **Alison O'Mara-Eves**; from Institute of Education

Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013, 5:15-6:30pm,

Faculty Meeting Room (G9), LSHTM, 15-17 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SH

Abstract

**Community engagement strategies to reduce health inequalities:  
a multi-method systematic review of complex interventions.**

What are the theories underpinning community engagement interventions to reduce health inequalities? How do these relate to the effectiveness (including cost effectiveness) and appropriateness of such interventions? We present findings from a recent NIHR-funded systematic review on community engagement strategies to reduce health inequalities. The complexity of this broad topic lends itself well to multi-method synthesis. From included studies, a conceptual framework was developed and theories of change were identified. We compared the effectiveness of interventions that were based on different theories of change in a meta-analysis of 131 randomised controlled trials of public health interventions. Analyses of economic and process data were undertaken, and findings from all syntheses combined into a 'meta-synthesis'. Discussion will focus on the role of evaluating conceptual frameworks and theories of change in public health interventions.

*Ginny Brunton and Alison O'Mara-Eves are Research Officers and James Thomas is Professor of Social Research and Policy. All three work at the EPPI-Centre, Institute of Education on systematic reviews predominantly in health and social care.*