The Economics of Social Capital and Health

A Conceptual and Empirical Roadmap

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 A Conceptual and Empirical Roadmap
 edited by Sherman Folland and Lorenzo Rocco

The Economics of Social Capital and Health

A Conceptual and Empirical Roadmap

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This volume has been an excellent opportunity for the building of social capital, and is dedicated to the many people who contributed in many ways to its creation.

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Foreword

This book contains cutting-edge theoretical and empirical thinking on the relationship between social capital and health. The distinctive feature of this book is that its contributions are made by economists whose points of view differ from those of others who have contributed to this literature. The book seeks to address six questions, the answers to which are unique contributions to understanding the relationship between social capital and health:

1. What do economists working in the health arena bring to the intellectual debate on social capital that others have not?
2. What do economists have to offer to the understanding of the possible links and relationships between social capital and health?
3. Which paradigms in economics are the most useful in understanding the possible links and relationships between social capital and health?
4. What have economists studied empirically? What are the weaknesses of these studies?
5. How do economists attempt to overcome the weaknesses in their empirical work?
6. What factors contribute to the social capital and health relationship?

This book begins by laying out the theoretical foundations between social capital and health. Chapters 1–5 focus on the theoretical and conceptual issues, while Chapters 6–10 focus on the empirical and policy relationships between social capital and health. Readers will think differently and more deeply about the relationship between social capital and health after reading this book.

Richard M. Scheffler
Distinguished Professor of Health Economics
University of California, Berkeley
January 2014

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