Global Health and The Global Economic Crisis

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Abstract: The evolving global financial crisis reveals both the fragile state of our world and the adverse health implications of social injustice. This is a stark reminder of the need for deep introspection, moral imagination and innovative social action to facilitate reversal of widening disparities in health and well being within and between nations. In this presentation I shall briefly review the state of health in the world, outline how this has been shaped by dominant economic policies over the past half century, and consider what insights this narrative provides about our values. I shall conclude by considering some potential scenarios for the future and by making some suggestions for research and action that have the potential to improve global health. My hope is that this discussion may serve to stimulate imaginative ameliorative trans-disciplinary work.