

# Cornell Center for Health Equity

## HEALTH EQUITY *Seminar Series*

Tomorrow, January 6, 2023 | 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

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**TALK TITLE:**

"Addressing Social Determinants of Health for Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Equity"

**TALK ABSTRACT:**

Suicide is a significant public health concern and the second leading cause of death among individuals aged 10 to 34. Suicide rates have increased, especially among racial/ethnic minorities, males, adolescents, sexual and gender minorities, and those with low socioeconomic status. Prior studies, including my own, identified Social Determinants of Health (SDoH, e.g., widening inequality, structural bias, and discrimination) as contributing factors to disparate risks of suicide among marginalized populations. Focusing on SDoH can help clinical practitioners, public health professionals, and policymakers design and implement tailored programs for suicide interventions and prevention. In this talk, I will start by highlighting important epidemiological trend studies on health disparities and suicide. I will call for integrating the SDoH framework into studying and addressing mental health equity. Using examples of evidence based on population-based studies and electronic health records, I will introduce different methods to measure, study and improve our understanding of SDoH.

**SPEAKERS:**

[Dr. Yunyu Xiao](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Health Informatics in the Department of Population Health Sciences at Weill Cornell Medical College (WCMC). Her research leverages large, longitudinal, nationally representative, complex population-based, and electronic health records datasets to understand racial/ethnic, sex, gender, socioeconomic, and other disparities in suicide and mental health, taking a life-course and multilevel perspective to explore structural, social, and individual-level factors to reduce suicide and mental health. Then, this understanding informs social/behavioral and policy interventions to reduce disparities and improve health equity. She is leading two projects that use existing data to study social determinants of health and resilience factors relevant to mental health (broadly) and suicide (specifically) among health disparity populations. Her work has been published in top-ranked journals (e.g., JAMA Psychiatry, JAMA Network Open, Pediatrics, American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Journal of Affective Disorders). She is a recipient of seed funds from the Bill & Gates Foundation, Center for Health Economics of Treatment Interventions for Substance Use Disorders, HCV, and HIV (CHERISH), National Institute for Health Care Management, the Institute of Artificial Intelligence, Racial Justice Research Fund, Center for Social Health & Wellbeing, and an NYU University-Wide Outstanding Dissertation Award in Public Health (1 awardee per year). She received her MPhil in social work and social administration from the University of Hong Kong and her Ph.D. in social work from New York University.



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