

## Department of Public Policy's Fall Speaker Series Begins

September 11, 2007

As part of The Department of Public Policy's Fall Speaker Series, Yale University's Professor Jason M. Fletcher presented his most recent research titled, *Using Genetic Lotteries within Families to Examine the Causal Impact of Poor Health on Academic Achievement*. This study explores the impact of poor health conditions on academic outcomes in students.

Professor Fletcher focused on a set of genetic markers between family members to account for the endogeneity of health outcomes in general. Among these genetic markers were those associated with major childhood health issues such as obesity, depression, and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

He finds certain poor health measures negatively influenced academic achievement.

Professor Fletcher received his Ph.D. from University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research focuses on examining social influences on adolescent education and health outcomes, long-term consequences of childhood mental illness, and child and adolescent mental health policy. Specific areas include autism, adolescent depression, child and adolescent obesity, ADHD, and adolescent risky behavior choices. He is also examining the long term health consequences of occupation choices and occupational stress.