

The Spirit Level

Why Equality is Better for Everyone

With Professor Richard Wilkinson

MADO auditorium, 15 June, 11.00-12.45

A NESSE seminar for Commission staff

Compelling new evidence shows that more equal societies – with smaller gaps between the highest and lowest incomes – have better health, fewer social problems and stronger communities. This evidence was published in 2009 in the best-selling book *The Spirit Level* by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett.

The speaker will provide hard evidence to show:

- How almost everything –from life expectancy to mental illness, violence to illiteracy –is affected not by how wealthy a society is, but how equal it is
- That societies with a bigger gap between rich and poor are bad for everyone in them –including the well-off
- That inequality greatly reduces children's educational prospects and future life chances



Richard Wilkinson has played a formative role in international research on the social determinants of health and his work has been published in many languages. He studied economic history at the London School of Economics before training in epidemiology and is Professor Emeritus at the University of Nottingham Medical School, Honorary Professor at University College London and a Visiting Professor at the University of York. He is co-author (with Kate Pickett) of *The Spirit Level* and is a co-founder of [The Equality Trust](#).