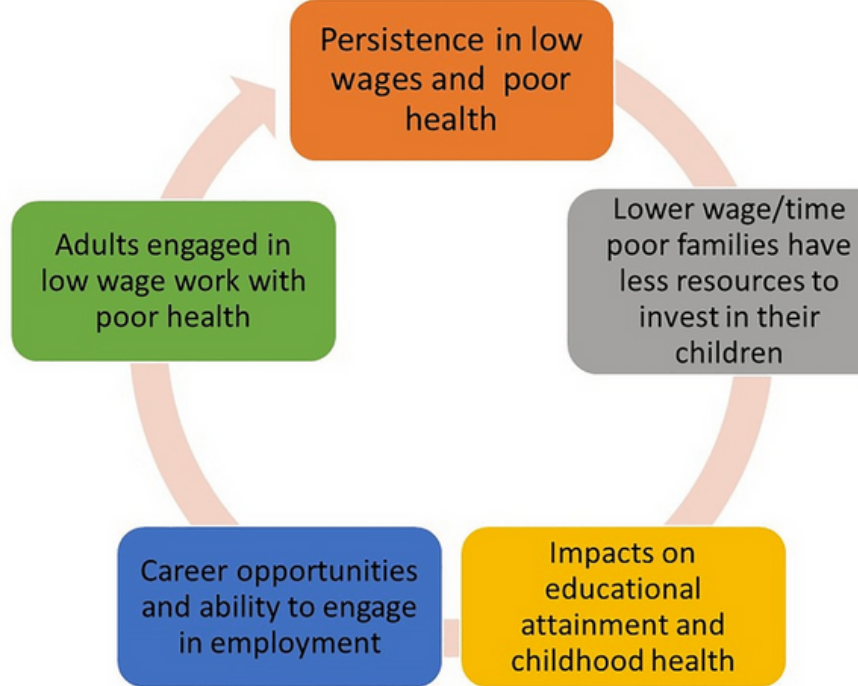


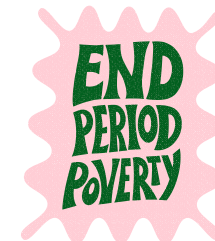
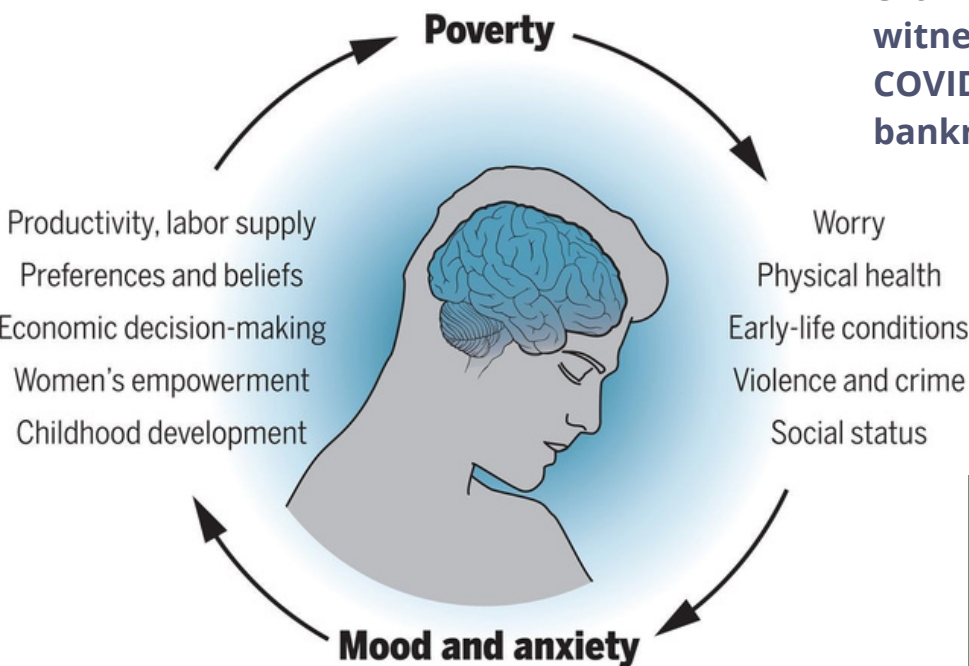
What is Medical Anthropology?

Dr. Mel Maldonado-Salcedo

Poverty is a major cause of ill health and a barrier to accessing health care when needed. This relationship is financial: if you live in poverty, you cannot afford to purchase goods/products/services that are needed for good health, including sufficient quantities of quality food and health care. But, the relationship is also related to other factors interconnected with poverty, such as lack of information on appropriate health-promoting practices, language, mistrust, or lack of voice/listening needed to make social services connect.



Ill health, in turn, is a significant cause of poverty (the relationship between health and wealth is inextricable in the U.S.) This is partly due to the costs of seeking health care, which include not only out-of-pocket spending on care (such as consultations, tests, and medicine), but also transportation costs and any informal payments to providers. Also, in order to maintain health, you must have access to safe food, water, and housing. It is also due to the considerable loss of income associated with illness, no greater example of this exists than what we witness with the global health crisis of COVID-19. The number one cause of bankruptcy in the US is related to health.



Season 4, Episode 4
Study Guide
Health Consumerism and Care