

5-11-2001

The Mind-Body Problem: A Tuberculosis/Tobacco Example

IBPP Editor
bloomr@erau.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.erau.edu/ibpp>



Part of the [Epidemiology Commons](#), [Health Policy Commons](#), [International Economics Commons](#), [International Relations Commons](#), [Other Political Science Commons](#), [Other Psychology Commons](#), and the [Philosophy of Mind Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Editor, IBPP (2001) "The Mind-Body Problem: A Tuberculosis/Tobacco Example," *International Bulletin of Political Psychology*. Vol. 10 : Iss. 17 , Article 4.

Available at: <https://commons.erau.edu/ibpp/vol10/iss17/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in International Bulletin of Political Psychology by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact commons@erau.edu.

Title: The Mind-Body Problem: A Tuberculosis/Tobacco Example

Author: Editor

Volume: 10

Issue: 17

Date: 2001-05-11

Keywords: Body, Mind, Russia, Tobacco, Tuberculosis, World Bank, World Health Organization

Abstract. This article illustrates two conflicts between what is, perhaps, best for the mind and best for the body.

Journalists have reported on a rapid spreading of a multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis throughout Russia. According to these accounts, the World Bank is offering a \$150-million loan to help Russia contain the epidemic. However, some Russian political and mass media authorities appear loath to accept the loan. In fact, they assert that the World Bank really intends to help Western drug companies take over the Russian market for drugs from domestic companies; that the World Bank is wrongly lumping Russia into a group of Third World countries; that Russia has far more sophisticated and advanced means of confronting the tuberculosis epidemic than what the World Bank has in mind; and that the World Bank is obtusely ignoring Russian advances in areas such as space, nuclear power, and various intellectual pursuits.

Some of the Russian assertions are based on conflating alleged consequence with a logically compatible intention. For example, if Western drug companies do take a larger piece of the Russian drug market, a World Bank plan to facilitate this is logically consonant but is certainly not the only intentional possibility. Some of the Russian assertions are based on overgeneralizing from a specific conclusion. For example, if the World Bank does allege that the Russians need to follow certain procedures similar to those of the Third World concerning tuberculosis management, one does not necessarily need to also conclude that Russia is like the Third World or that Russia cannot even lead the First World in other human endeavors. Unfortunately, the phenomenology of the mind as exemplified by the Russian assertions seems to be challenging the viability of the body as exemplified by the tuberculosis threat in these matters.

Mind and body conflicts can characterize conflict over a global pact on tobacco as well. Many health advocates are arguing for a World Health Organization (WHO) treaty that would ban advertising and tobacco promotion, regulate labeling on tobacco products, bar smoking in public places, and more fully constrain tobacco smuggling. However, government officials of some countries including the United States are attempting to--in the perceptions of many health advocates--weaken the treaty. The rationale of these officials is based on the treaty's allegedly untoward effects on free-speech guarantees and the free movement of goods sans services. As well, these officials assert that "'countries can't sign onto (binding obligations)'" and that the WHO is attempting to take over the decision-making powers of national governments.

Both advocates against the World Bank and WHO initiatives may solely be interested in the financial bottom line regardless of statements to the contrary. But this, too, is a mind-body contestation. One might try to render onto the mind that which is the mind's and to the body's that which is the body's. But in the process, the body and the mind might both meet their demise. (See Huemer, R.P. (2000). Mental illness and the mind-body problem. *Journal of Orthomolecular Medicine*, 15, 118-120; Humphrey, N. (2000). How to solve the mind-body problem. *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 7, 5-20; Moessinger, P. (2000). Piaget: From biology to sociology. *New Ideas in Psychology*, 18, 171-176;

International Bulletin of Political Psychology

Montero, B. (2001). Post-physicalism. *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 8, 61-80; Olson, E. (May 6, 2001). U.S. accused of diluting a global pact on tobacco. *The New York Times*, p. Y13; Wines, M. (May 6, 2001). Despite swift spread of TB, Russians may reject big loan. *The New York Times*, p. Y12.) (Keywords: Body, Mind, Russia, Tobacco, Tuberculosis, World Bank, World Health Organization.)