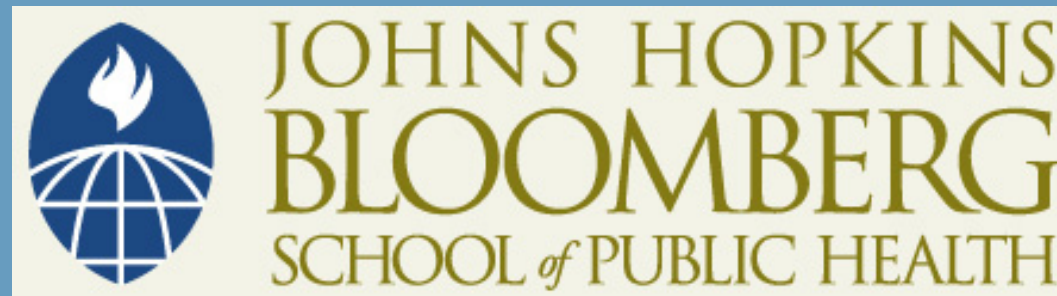


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## Section C

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“Determinants” of Development

# Development

- How and why does development unfold the way it does for particular individuals?

# Childhood and Adulthood

**Childhood**

**Adulthood**

Family  
socioeconomic  
status



Cardiovascular  
disease

?

# Developmental Domains Interact

- Within the individual—biological, psychological, and social development are linked
  - Psychological processes important mediators between outside environment and the body, e.g., stress
  - Biological capacities may shape psychological and social outcomes, e.g., functional limitations

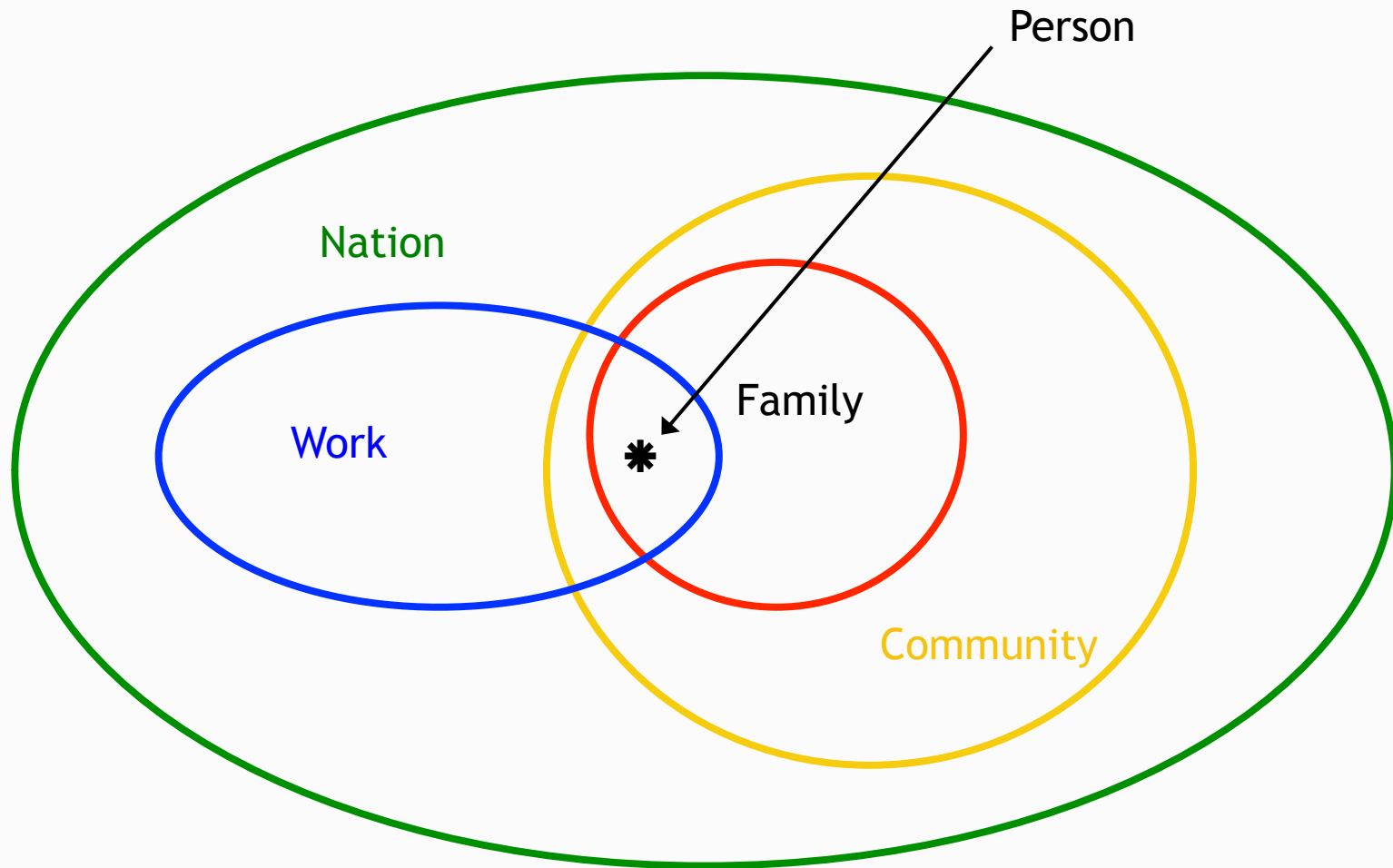
# Contexts Shape Development

- Contexts: environments, systems outside the individual
- Think of individual as “embedded”
- Most are social (family network) or physical (built environment)
- Their characteristics shape individual development

# Examples of Contexts and Their Characteristics

- Neighborhood
  - Presence of crime, social cohesion, physical deterioration
- Families
  - Socioeconomic status (SES), structure, qualities of relationships (e.g., conflict, cooperation), parenting
- Workplace
  - Relationships, health insurance (size of firm)
- Nation
  - Political system, economic regime, culture (not always national)

# Individuals in Contexts





# Alternative Approaches to Health

- Compartmentalized: definition of health and disciplinary training shape ideas about factors that influence health
- Integrative: recognize multiple levels of causation AND that these levels are potentially interrelated
  - By levels we mean levels of systemic organization: geographic, social, psychological, physiological

# What Causes Cardiovascular Disease?

- Physiological
  - Buildup of arterial plaque, genetic susceptibility
- Psychological
  - Hostile personality
- Behavioral
  - Smoking, high fat diet, lack of medical care
- Social
  - Stress, poverty, social isolation
- Geographic
  - High crime, low amenity neighborhood

# Why Integrative Approaches?

- “While the disciplines concerned with health research may be separated conceptually, methodologically, and administratively, the process about which they are concerned are inextricably linked.”
  - Anderson, 1998
- Without multilevel research we will miss these interdependencies

# Multilevel/Integrative Health Science

- Multilevel approach to health takes into account health determinants acting at different levels of systemic organization and seeks to understand linkages among them
- Does not mean everyone does everything!
- But strong mandate for multidisciplinary and “transdisciplinary” work
- Principal of proximity suggests especially fruitful collaborations will be among adjacent levels

## Overlaps with Life Course Perspective

- Contexts at social, physical environment levels

# Implications

- The end of reductionism (someday)
- Beyond nature vs. nurture
- Allowing for individual agency
  - Transactional approaches to development
- Watershed, but huge challenge to “science as usual”