

Episode #51 – Politics of Dental Care in Canada: Interview with Dr. Carlos Quiñonez December 31, 2021

Biography

Dr. Carlos Quiñonez is a dental public health specialist, professor and program director at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto (U of T). He graduated with a DMD from the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Manitoba (U of M) in 1998, and completed an MSc at the U of M's Faculty of Medicine in 2004. He then completed a PhD and dental public health specialty at the U of T in 2009. Dr. Quiñonez's research centres on the history, politics, and economics of dentistry, with a specific focus on health and social equity. He is the author of over 200 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and government reports, and is regularly called upon by government and non-governmental agencies to provide advice on issues of dental care policy. In addition, he recently published a book entitled *The Politics of Dental Care in Canada*.

Overview of *The Politics of Dental Care in Canada*

As per the Canadian Scholars website:

Filling a gap in the health policy literature, author and dental public health specialist Dr. Quiñonez explores the complexities surrounding Canada's dental care system and policies, including how they came to be, their consequences, and what they mean for oral health and access to dental care.

The Politics of Dental Care in Canada seeks to answer a long standing policy question in Canadian health care: Why is dental care excluded from Canada's national system of health insurance, Medicare? The text presents a history of dentistry in Canada from the late 19th century onward, outlining how dentistry traversed a developing Canadian welfare state. Dr. Quiñonez explores factors that led to dentistry's separation from larger movements in health care policy, including moral questions on individual versus social responsibility over health, scientific advances in the field, and prevailing economic uncertainty.

Opening with a series introduction by Dr. Dennis Raphael, this vital text offers an extensive overview on how the politics of dental care contributes to inequalities and inequities in oral health. From discussing scientific and public health advances in dentistry to looking at the general nature of oral health care in Canada from an international perspective, this text serves as an important addition to the field of health policy and a foundational resource for courses in dentistry, health studies, and comparative health policy. [1]

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Additional Resources

One Smile Research Program
https://www.onesmileprogram.ca/

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