

Propositions accompanying the thesis

## Aetiology of Depression:

### Insights from epidemiological and genetic research

1. There is no causal relation between vitamin D serum deficiency and depression (*This thesis*).
2. Inflammatory proteins CRP and IL-6 predict the occurrence and persistence of depressive symptoms (*This thesis*).
3. Hypothesis-free genome wide epigenetic studies suggest that variations in the methylation of depression candidate genes are associated with depressive symptoms (*This thesis*).
4. In men, the psychological burden of having experienced a myocardial infarction contributes to the long-term risk of depression (*This thesis*).
5. The experience of multiple but not that of a single episode of depression increases the age related cognitive impairment (*This thesis*).
6. While diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers are important but different concepts, an etiological biomarker is nothing but a fancy label for a risk factor or even indicates confounding.
7. The broad DSM symptom definition of the depressive disorder has transformed a severe uncommon disease to the leading cause of disability worldwide.
8. It is naive to think that we can combat genocide without rethinking Holocaust education.
9. "Genetics load the gun, but the environment pulls the trigger." (*Dr. Francis Collins, former director of the US National Institutes of Health*).
10. The scientific revolution will end the history of humanity (*inspired by Yuval Noah Harari: Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind; 2011*).
11. "The hardest thing is to do something that is close to nothing." (*Marina Abramovic*).

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