



What do we mean when we say ‘*Medicalisation*’?

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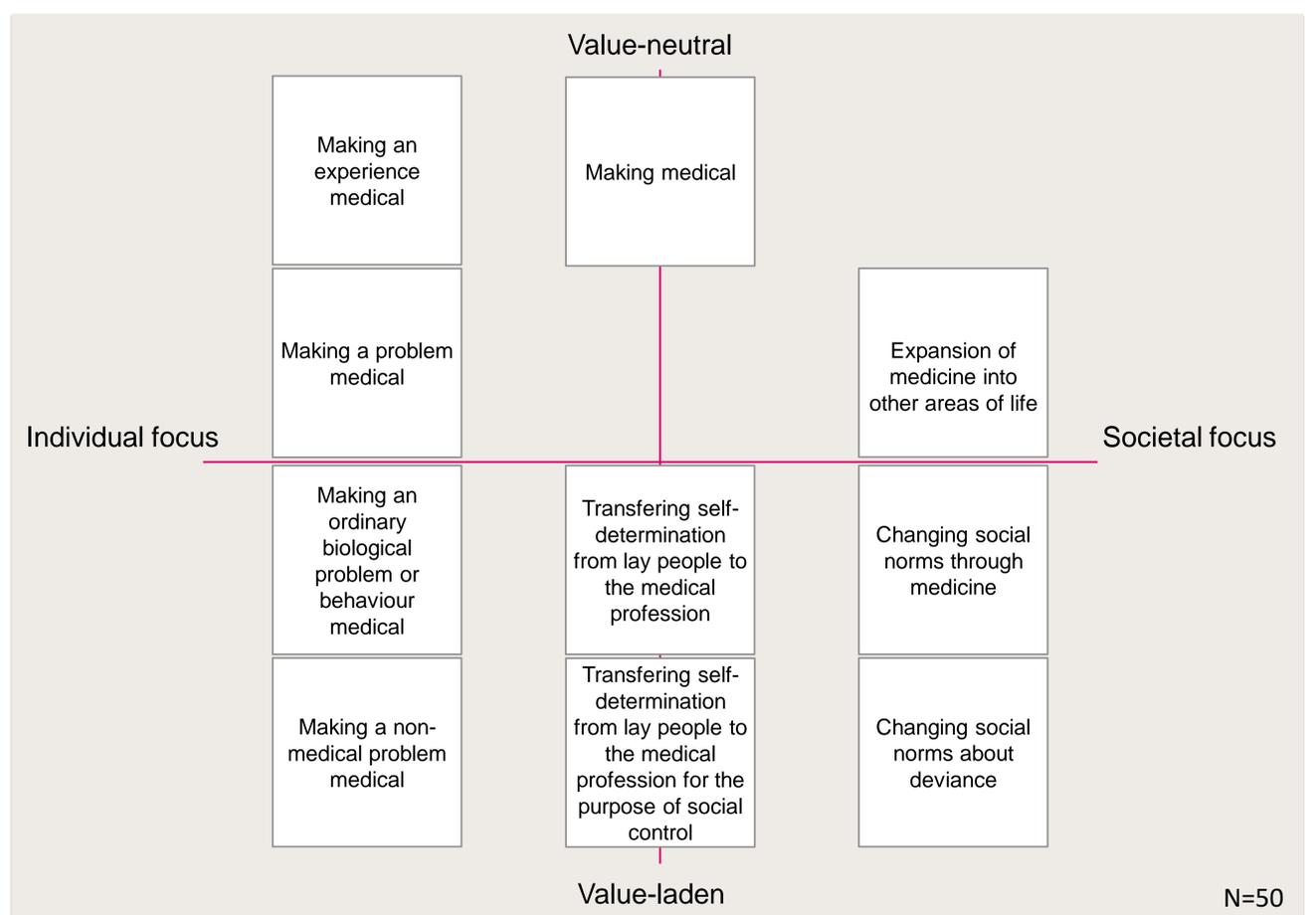
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Introduction

Research question

How is medicalisation defined in empirical research and how do definitions differ from each other?

- Medicalisation has been topic of discussion, debate and research for decades
- Definitions are important since they provide a framework through which reality is interpreted and studied, which influences the results and solutions
- Method: scoping review of empirical research on medicalisation



Results

- The definitions can be grouped into ten categories which differ from each other along two axes:
 - Value neutral vs. value laden
 - Individual vs. societal focus
- Topic, year of publication & country of origin are unrelated to the categories
- Subjects can be approached from different categories. For example: sleeping problems
- The sources that the studies base their definitions upon is dominated by Conrad (1975-2015)

Conclusion & Discussion

- Variation is necessary and illustrates the variety and richness of the research field
- Research questions that focus on the individual effects of medicalisation require another definition than research questions that focus on the societal effect
- Yet, how medicalisation is defined can have important consequences for both research and policy making

Conclusion

Empirical studies about medicalisation use many different definitions, which differ from each other across two axes. Studies cannot be compared or aligned to each other without considering the definitions they use

