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PhD in Social Health Sciences  
2020-2021

INVITATION to the Public defence of

**Masja SCHMIDT**

To obtain the academic degree of

**DOCTOR OF SOCIAL HEALTH SCIENCES**

**Supporting evidence based decision making in health promotion and prevention with systematic literature review and health economic modelling**

The defence will take place on **Tuesday, 27 April 2021 at 5 p.m.**

and will be organised **online**, accessible through the following link:

[Access online defence](#)

## Summary of the dissertation

Public health is concerned with promoting and protecting health, as well as preventing disease. Effective interventions can help to achieve these aims. However, budgets for healthcare – and especially for health promotion and prevention – are limited. This makes it important that resources are allocated efficiently. Health economic evaluations provide insights into the expected health gains and costs associated with an intervention compared to a relevant alternative. These insights can help decision makers in the difficult task of setting evidence-based priorities in public health. This was also the overall aim of this thesis: to apply health economic concepts to support evidence based decision making in health promotion and prevention. To this end, we explored the expected cost-effectiveness of interventions that promote health or prevent disease or injury through systematic literature reviews and decision analytic modelling. The interventions covered in this thesis are universal mental health interventions for children and adolescents, fall prevention interventions for older people, and newborn screening for cystic fibrosis. Future research should explore possibilities of a more structural approach to collecting data to facilitate the use of health economic evaluations in evidence-based decision making.

## Curriculum Vitae

Masja Schmidt was born on 16 October 1991 in The Hague, the Netherlands. In 2014, she obtained her BSc in Biomedical Sciences at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen. She went on to study at Maastricht University where she obtained her MSc in European Public Health in 2016. In 2017, Masja started working as a PhD Researcher at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel on the Health Economic Evaluations of Prevention Policies in Flanders (HELPPFL) project under supervision of prof. dr. Koen Putman. Masja Schmidt is author of nine peer reviewed publications, of which four as (shared) first author. Two manuscripts are currently under review. She presented her work at various international scientific conferences.