

## Book Reviews

Michael H. Ebert, M.D., Editor

### **Cultural Psychiatry: Euro-International Perspectives**

edited by A. Tarik Yilmaz, Mitchell G. Weiss, and Anita Riecher-Rössler. In book series: *Bibliotheca Psychiatrica*, no. 169. Saletu B, ed. S. Karger AG, Basel, Switzerland, 2001, 189 pages, \$77.50.

This volume is a part of the *Bibliotheca Psychiatrica* book series, which is edited by Bernd Saletu. Yilmaz is affiliated with the University of Kadir Has in Istanbul, Turkey, and Weiss and Riecher-Rössler are affiliated with the University of Basel in Basel, Switzerland. This book grew out of the conference "Transcultural Psychiatry: Challenges for Diagnosis and Treatment," which was held in March 1998 in Basel, Switzerland. Most of the authors of the chapters in this book were presenters in this conference. Additionally, a few selected authors were invited in order to fully reflect the emphasis of this book on cultural perspectives from Switzerland, Europe as a whole, and beyond Europe.

The scope of this book is based on 2 fundamental questions: (1) What is or should be the role of culture in psychiatry, and how can it inform strategies for improving mental health? and (2) How does our experience in cultural psychiatry contribute to the formulation and development of an appropriate role for anthropology to facilitate effective interdisciplinary interactions? The approach of this volume to addressing these 2 fundamental questions follows the 3 sections of which the book is composed.

Section 1, "Interdisciplinary Concepts Informing Clinical Practice and Research," encompasses 5 chapters. The first chapter focuses on the theoretical conceptualization between anthropology and medicine and offers a very scholarly review of the evolution of cultural psychiatry over time. The underlying concept of this chapter is that culture contributes to the generation of social praxis and is, at the same time, its product. The second chapter addresses the clinical interpretation of illness, its impact on medical anthropology, and how these issues relate to mental illness classification. This chapter also addresses the appropriate use of the cultural formulation as implied in the DSM-IV. The author uses 1 clinical case as an illustration of the role of the DSM-IV cultural formulation. The third chapter discusses the conceptualization of "culture-bound syndromes." Historical biases are also addressed in this chapter. The fourth chapter describes the most relevant models of understanding the concepts of diagnosis and disability as they are used across the world. Quantitative research methods are also discussed. The fifth chapter reviews the diagnosis of neurasthenia among Chinese populations in Hong Kong, mainland China, and Los Angeles, Calif. The validity of this diagnosis is stressed.

Section 2, "Migration, Trauma, and the Concept of Migrant Mental Health Problems," contains 4 chapters. The first chapter analyzes the conditions that existed from the 15th to 17th centuries in the British colonies in the Caribbean and the migration from the colonies to England, which led to the unique interactions between British mental health professionals and African Caribbean migrants. The second chapter uses posttraumatic

stress disorders as the basis for understanding the cultural aspects of this condition. The third chapter discusses specific clinical and cultural manifestations such as somatization (e.g., low back pain) and their risk factors among foreign workers in Switzerland. The fourth chapter describes the use of the DSM-IV cultural formulation via a clinical case illustration.

Section 3, "Cultural Lessons for Intervention and Treatment," includes 4 chapters. The first chapter discusses how culture impacts psychotherapy treatment with children, using experiences from both England and India. It also underlines the importance of integrating professional and patients' perspectives. The second chapter addresses identity problems based on the case of a child from Turkey who migrated to Switzerland. The third chapter discusses the role of culture in effective psychotherapeutic crisis interventions. The fourth chapter focuses on the impact of culture on group psychotherapy process.

In summary, I very much enjoyed reading this book. It is well balanced between theory and practice and offers a strong clinical emphasis, which I found to be quite relevant in daily psychiatric practice in this country as well as abroad.

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### **Conducting Insanity Evaluations, 2nd ed.**

by Richard Rogers, Ph.D., and Daniel W. Shuman,  
J.D. Guilford Press, New York, N.Y., 2000, 371 pages, \$40.00.

*Conducting Insanity Evaluations, Second Edition*, is a mandatory inclusion in the library of any forensic psychiatrist or psychologist. A revision to the first edition published in 1986, this edition provides clinical methods and explicit practice standards for mental health professionals who must assess defendants for criminal responsibility. It will serve as an excellent reference for historic, landmark cases that have shaped our current thinking. More importantly, however, this text teaches both the novice and the well-seasoned evaluator how to examine defendants and explains the legal and clinical rationale for examination methods. It not only provides a comprehensive guide to the utilization of psychological and specialized testing and clinical and structured interviews, but also describes how to synthesize one's findings into rational, clinically relevant, and statistically sound decisions. Valuable new chapters devoted to the relationship between the forensic psychiatrist or psychologist and the attorney and the most effective ways to communicate information and maintain a professional interaction are included. A further improvement of this edition is the database from which "demographic and offense characteristics" (p. vii) of defendants are compiled and the "framework for understanding the criminal symptoms and their relationship to insanity constructs" (p. vii) was developed. The Rogers Criminal

at Southern Methodist University, as coauthor has greatly enhanced the legal depth of the text and thus widened the potential base of readers. One may recall that he received the Manfred S. Guttmacher Award from the American Psychiatric Association for his outstanding contribution to forensic psychiatry. Together, Mr. Shuman and Dr. Rogers present a valuable addition to the psychiatric forensic literature.

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### **Lexicon of Psychiatry, Neurology and the Neurosciences, 2nd ed.**

by Frank J. Ayd, Jr., M.D. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia, Pa., 2000, 1120 pages, \$69.00 (paper).

According to *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, 10th ed.*, a lexicon is a book "containing an alphabetical arrangement of the words in a language and their definitions." The same dictionary defines an encyclopedia as a "work that contains information on all branches of knowledge or treats comprehensively a particular branch of knowledge usually in articles arranged alphabetically by subject." By these definitions, the book under review, *Lexicon of Psychiatry, Neurology and the Neurosciences* by Frank J. Ayd, Jr., M.D., should be considered more of an encyclopedia than a lexicon. It contains definitions of several hundreds of terms in psychiatry, neurology, and the neurosciences, covering a broad range of topics. The lexicon does not offer mere definitions but a thorough discussion of each topic with relevant references. Each entry is a brief essay on the topic that has been peer reviewed by a distinguished editorial board. The topics that are included range from the more common ones, such as the side effects of medications, to the more esoteric ones, such as a case report of epilepsy presenting as unwanted orgasms in a 44-year-old woman. Controversies are covered thoroughly, and evidence from clinical trials is provided.

For a clinician, especially one who is a practicing psychopharmacologist, this book provides an instant reference to problems one confronts in day-to-day practice. For example, under the heading "Clozapine," there are 221 entries that deal with basic-to-advanced subtopics, such as the pharmacology of clozapine, including side effects and their management, drug

the heading "Fluoxetine," there are 212 entries covering a broad range of topics associated with the antidepressant. These topics are covered comprehensively with case reports and the latest references, thus providing a veritable trove of information.

Given the present-day emphasis on evidence-based medicine, the lexicon can be a great asset for teaching medical students and residents. In addition, it provides state-of-the-art definitions of various basic neuroscientific terms that make following the current neuroscience literature less daunting for the clinician. Conversely, the neuroscientist will benefit from the explication of clinical concepts.

One major limitation of this book is the very fact that it is a print medium. Some of its references are unavoidably dated by the time the book reaches the reader. This can be a shortcoming in this day and age when online and CD-ROM textbooks are revised regularly to keep them current and patients come to their physician's office armed with the latest information from the Internet. In addition, with 1120 pages, the book is too bulky to carry around in contrast to the electronic devices that can store significant amounts of information and be carried around in a pocket. The publisher might consider offering the book online or on CD-ROM to keep it current.

Limitations can also be found in the scope of this book that make it less than comprehensive in its claim to be a lexicon of psychiatry. The areas of psychosocial theories and therapies receive scant attention. For example, under the heading "Depression," there are approximately 120 entries dealing with various aspects of the disorder, with the main emphasis being on the biology, diagnosis, and management of medication. No entries, however, relate to interpersonal therapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy, or psychodynamic therapy. Familiarity with basic concepts in these areas is essential, even for a biologically oriented psychiatrist in order for him or her to deliver effective care in the present context of split treatments.

In summary, this book is a valuable companion for the clinician and the neuroscientist and a must for residents and clinical supervisors who are involved in teaching residents and medical students. It will also be useful for nonmedical therapists as they monitor their patients' treatment. A stupendous feat of scholarship, *Lexicon of Psychiatry, Neurology and the Neurosciences* deserves to be on the desk of every psychiatrist.

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