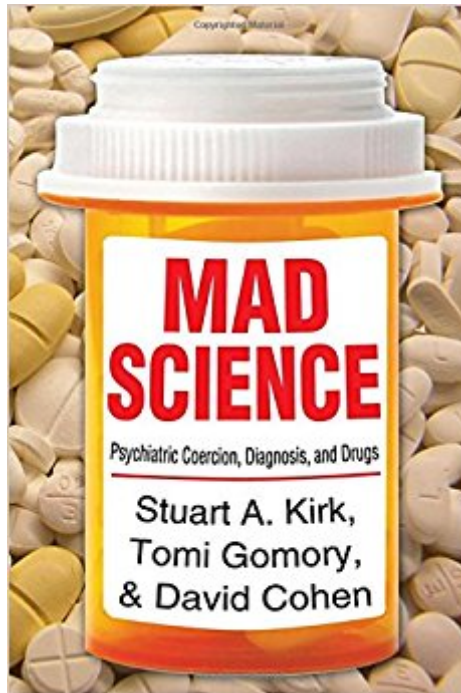The book was found

Mad Science: Psychiatric Coercion, Diagnosis, And Drugs

Synopsis

*Winner of an honorable mention from theSociety for Social Work and ResearchforOutstanding Social Work Book AwardMad Science argues that the fundamental claims of modern American psychiatry are based on misconceived, flawed, and distorted science. The authors address multiple paradoxes in American mental health research, including the remaking of coercion into scientific psychiatric treatment, the adoption of an unscientific diagnostic system that controls the distribution of services, and how drug treatments have failed to improve the mental health outcome.When it comes to understanding and treating mental illness, distortions of research are not rare, misinterpretation of data is not isolated, and bogus claims of success are not voiced by isolated researchers seeking aggrandizement. This book's detailed analysis of coercion and community treatment, diagnosis, and psychopharmacology reveals that these characteristics are endemic, institutional, and protected in psychiatry. They are not just bad science, but mad science.This book provides an engaging and readable scientific and social critique of current mental health practices. The authors are scholars, researchers, and clinicians who have written extensively about community care, diagnosis, and psychoactive drugs. This paperback edition makes Mad Science accessible to all specialists in the field as well as to the informed public.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

â œ[Mad Science] comprehensively evaluates psychiatryâ ™s own evidence for its disease model and its justification for its treatment of mental illness. It attains this goal better than all prior efforts to

discredit psychiatry.Â â œ â ”Peter Barglow, Skeptical Inquirer â œThere is a common assumption that psychiatry uses scientific and medical principles to aid mentally ill patients by diagnosis, prescribing medications, and honoring the basic rights of those being served. Kirk (Univ. of California-Los Angeles), Gomory (Florida State Univ.), and Cohen (Florida International Univ.) provide compelling evidence that disabuses the reader of these premises. Beginning with spurious descriptive classification schemes of various psychiatric conditions enumerated in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), the bible of the discipline, the coauthors trace its evolution from a purely administrative classification tool to a burgeoning compendium of highly redundant categories not grounded in real world considerations. The DSM in all its permutations lacks reliability and internal consistency partly because of the prevailing assumption by organizations such as the American Psychiatric Association that it is scientifically based and independent of outside influences. There is also a medicalized orientation at play that conditions clinicians to view mental disorders as diseases to be managed. The pharmaceutical industry, which creates psychotropic medications, subscribes heavily to that viewpoint, often colluding with key players within psychiatry to manufacture "illnesses" to justify their promotion through aggressive advertising and often illicit influences. This illuminating narrative exposes the inner workings of psychiatry. . . Highly recommended.â • â ”D. J. Winchester, Choice â œMad Science: Psychiatric Coercion, Diagnosis, and Drugs provides college-level readers and professionals with a fine blend of health science and philosophy as it analyzes the evidence surrounding psychiatric science, diagnosis, and treatment. It challenges common perceptions of how society cares for the insane, taking some fifty years of history and providing a scientific analysis of brain diseases, madness, and the coercive practices that are at the heart of psychiatric care.â • â ”The Psychology Shelf â œThis book is the clearest to argue for the abandonment of coercive psychiatry since the death of Thomas Szasz.â • â ”Duncan Double, Metapsychology Online Reviews â œPuts U.S. mental health care and research on trial. In this trial they question the premise that mental disorders fit the scientific disease model at all. They accuse modern mental health treatment of being no better than past quackery and suggest that much of it serves as coercive social control mechanisms for what they term as â ˆmisbehaviorâ ™. . . . These are serious charges that should be considered carefully by those interested in mental health care in the United States.â • â ”Richard Frank, PsycCRITIQUES â œAn extremely important book. Psychiatryâ ”first corrupted and now virtually annexed by Big Pharmaâ ”is comprehensively described by Mad Science, which details its scientifically invalid disorders, unreliable diagnostic methods, and ineffective and dangerous drugs. Mad Science will be the â ˆgo toâ ™ book about psychiatry for critically thinking healthcare professionals, journalists, and the

general public.â•â"Bruce E. Levine, author, Surviving Americaâ™s Depression Epidemic and Commonsense Rebellion âœMad Science provides an incisive deconstruction of the modern mental health system and the myths and suppositions it is based on. With a clear-headed philosophical analysis and a thorough-going dissection of the empirical evidence, it exposes the muddled conceptual foundations of psychiatric science, the tautological process of diagnosis, and the inadequacies of the research base for psychiatric treatment. It challenges almost every claim that has been made for progress in societyâ™s care of the mad and distressed over the last fifty years . . . and it describes how the unfounded but repeatedly stated notion of madness as a brain disease helps to disguise the dark heart of coercive practices that remain at the centre of psychiatric care. Mad Science reveals the vested interests that have constructed and perpetuated the modern âˆpsychopharmaceuticalâ™ complex, promulgating the mass diagnosis and drugging of the population for commercial gain, professional status, or in the interest of finding convenient and apparently unconscientious political solutions to complex social problems.Â This book is a must for anyone who is looking for a deeper understanding of the contradictions and failings of modern psychiatry, as well as an essential starting point for all those who imagine a different, more rational, more scientific, honest, and transparent system of care.â•â"Joanna Moncrieff, University College London

Stuart A. Kirk is distinguished professor emeritus of social welfare at the Luskin School of Public Affairs, University of California, Los Angeles. Â Tomi Gomory is associate professor of social work at Florida State University and a Fulbright scholar. Â David Cohen is professor and Marjorie Crump Chair in social welfare at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is also a Fulbright-Tocqueville scholar. Â Â

"Mad Science" is a wonderful book addressing psychiatric diagnosis, coercion, and drug treatment. It is quite readable for a scholarly work, and even those without mental health experience will be able to follow it. This book is deeply thoughtful and nuanced. When the authors present a point to which a counterpoint or counterargument comes to mind (e.g., "But what about X?"), inevitably, within a few words or sentences, such points are addressed. These scholars know the data, and present it accurately. When there's a lack of good data, the authors report this. When they speculate based on imperfect data, they do so transparently. This scholarly rigor makes it a very persuasive, enjoyable read, perhaps reminiscent of Boyle's classic book, "Schizophrenia: A Scientific Delusion?Over the past decade, there have been dozens of "critical mental health" books

published. As a mental health researcher, I read most of these. Some of these books have been ground-breaking, but many are fairly derivative of previous scholarship. The field is now almost crowded with such work. Importantly, "Mad Science" is not 'just another critical mental health book' - the authors are not simply telling the same-old-story. Instead, It is innovative, creative, and thought-provoking. All of us hold fundamental assumptions about mental health diagnosis, coercion, and drugs. "Mad Science" guides the reader through identifying these assumptions, and then rigorously evaluates the underlying scientific evidence. The book covers: The definition of 'mental illness', biological psychiatry, psychiatric coercion, Assertive Community Treatment, Evidence-Based Medicine, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (including DSM-5), psychiatric medications, and much more. I am quite familiar with these topics, but I was pleasantly surprised to find that, again and again, I was seeing things in a new way. I immediately began integrating material from this book into my graduate-level DSM class.One common critique of critical mental health books is that they put the problems with our mental health system on display without providing any answers. On this issue, this book also shines. The last chapter of "Mad Science" contains a great description of how we could move the field of mental health forward in a positive direction through problem-solving.I gave MSW students in my DSM class the option of choosing this book for their book review assignment, and several students read the book. They universally enjoyed "Mad Science" and reported that they learned a great deal. A typical comment: "This book blew my mind." I have also encouraged colleagues to read this book, and one just emailed me a comment about it: "It's seriously exquisite. Every word is so careful. I am very inspired by their rigor...".The audience for this book includes clients, family members of those diagnosed with mental health problems, researchers, clinicians, students, policymakers, administrators - or anyone interested in mental health. The rigorous application of critical thinking to the mental health field would also make it a useful book for any class or reading group interested in critical thinking in general.I highly recommend this book.

This book should be required reading for all mental health professionals and consumers, as well as every educator, parent, and elected official. Written in lively English with a minimum of psychobabble, it reveals how psychiatry and the pharmaceutical companies collude to snooker the public with fictions about rampant mental "illness," and how their unproven claims are unfortunately reinforced by such trusted agencies as the NIMH and NAMI."Mad Science" tracks how the psychiatric manual (DSM) became the definitive guide to abnormal behavior despite its total lack of scientific foundation, and goes on to carefully dismantle each of its pretenses in fair and

mind-blowing detail. The book documents how politics, ego, greed, and clever marketing encourage unquestioning belief in every so-called "disorder," and push the dehumanizing notion that all of life's discomforts can (and should) be relieved with a pill. One stunning chapter is devoted to the dismal history of such medication, including the role of "co-opted regulatory agencies" and "plain fraud" in its development.Please note: "Mad Science" is no raging polemic, although it will surely be dismissed as one by those whose incomes it will threaten, and those who, for whatever reason, choose to embrace pathological labels. The fact is these authors are not radicals but distinguished, award-winning professors. And while their conclusions are not new -- other researchers have been singing this song for decades, and the chorus is growing -- this is the most timely, comprehensive, well-organized argument this psychologist/reviewer has yet seen. It's also a pleasure to read.Finally, the convincing message of "Mad Science" becomes especially urgent as the DSM-5 arrives in May of 2013. More outrageous than ever, this latest version contains numerous newly-invented disorders while loosening the diagnostic criteria for existing ones; in its transparent push for more customers, it even makes normal grief into a mental "illness."Sadly, all the backstage anti-DSM protests in the mental health professions have done little to stop this juggernaut. It's time the public knew just how thoroughly it's being ripped off, and "Mad Science" might finally be the book to do it. Bravo!

Mad Science is a well organized deconstruction of biological psychiatry at its joints. It analyzes the three basic criticisms of psychiatry: the lack of validity (scientific meaning) of its concepts of mental "disorders," the ineffectiveness of its drugs and its coercive power. Mad Science offers a historical perspective of the failure of psychiatry to define and legitimize mental "disorders" as a medical problem. The lack of validity of mental "disorders" clouds most other issues about mental health care including the value of psychotropic drugs and the coercive power of psychiatry. The authors have keen insights into these issues and summarize them with a broad scope of sound science.Mad Science includes an articulate, cutting-edge exposition of the vested interests that plague the science of biological psychiatry and its medical model. The authors may occasionally be politically incorrect, but they are never logically or scientifically incorrect. The mad science of biological psychiatry is bad science.Mad Science is a condemning analysis of the current state of psychiatry that should serve as a catalyst for producing better science for better mental health care.

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