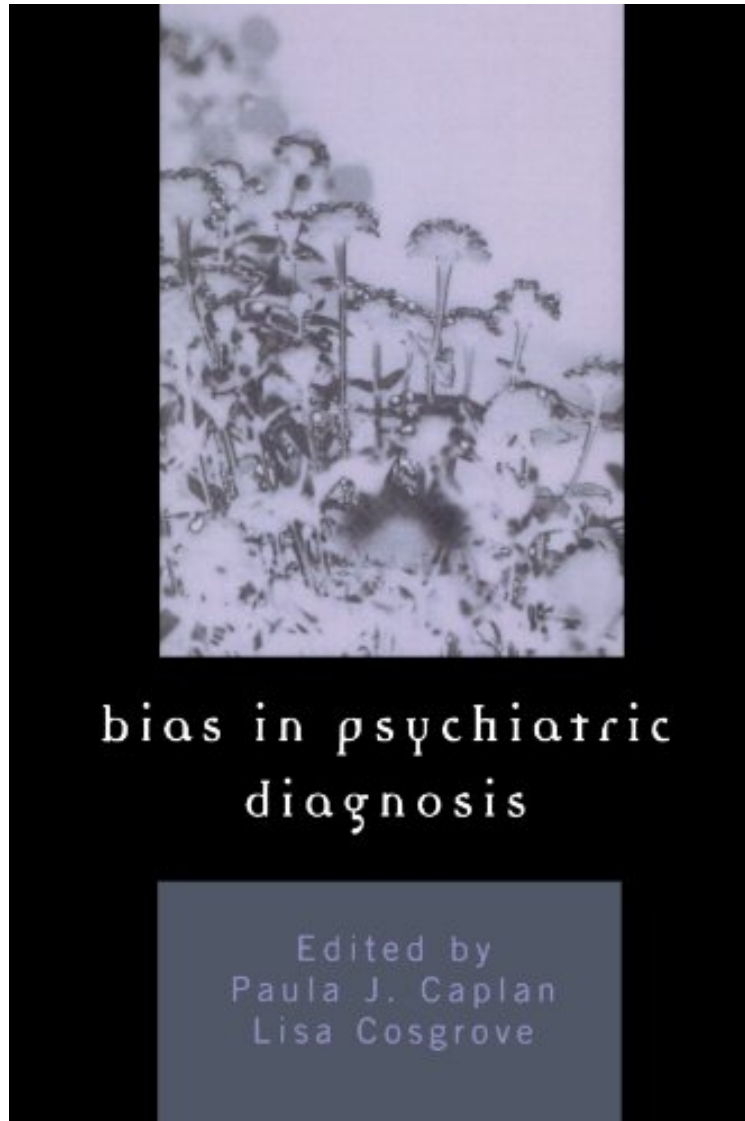


Bias in Psychiatric Diagnosis

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From Brand: Jason Aronson, Inc. : Bias in Psychiatric Diagnosis before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bias in Psychiatric Diagnosis:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Important, insightful, makes a differenceBy Allen IveyFew really understand what is going on in the mental health profession. Paula Caplan resigned from DSM IV because she discovered that it basicallly is a hoax for Big Pharma profits.The book is well written, fascinating, and needs to be on every professional's bookshelf.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy L. HellwigReally interesting perspectives covered in this book.18 of 21 people found the following review helpful. what a fabulous

critique of and companion to the DSM! By psychologist and mom I have taught abnormal psychology and have taught cultural/feminist critiques of psychology--this book pulls it all together beautifully. The chapters are quite short and cover a broad range of issues (discrimination against poor rural women, legal issues concerning bias in diagnosing, specific "diagnoses" like false memory syndrome, parental alienation syndrome, and premenstrual dysphoric disorder, etc). The book is well-written and easy for readers to grasp. It is straight-forward enough for non-psychologists or undergrads, and sophisticated enough for experienced professionals.

The public has a right to know that when they go to a therapist, they are almost certain to be given a psychiatric diagnosis, no matter how mild or normal their problems might be. It is unlikely that they will be told that a diagnosis will be written forever in their chart and that alarming consequences can result solely from having any psychiatric diagnosis. It would be disturbing enough if diagnosis was a thoroughly scientific process, but it is not, and its unscientific nature creates a vacuum into which biases of all kinds can rush. *Bias in Psychiatric Diagnosis* is the first book ever published about how gender, race, social class, age, physical disability, and sexual orientation affect the classification of human beings into categories of psychiatric diagnosis. It is surprising that this kind of book is not yet on the market, because it is such a hot topic, and the negative consequences of psychiatric diagnosis range from loss of custody of a child to denial of health insurance and employment to removal of one's right to make decisions about one's legal affairs. It is an unusually compelling book because of its real-life relevance for millions of people. Virtually everyone these days has been a therapy patient or has a loved one who has been. In addition, psychiatric diagnosis and biases in diagnosis are increasingly crucial portions of, or the main subject of, legal proceedings. This book should sit next to every doctor's PDR, especially given the skyrocketing use of psychoactive drugs in toddlers, children, and adolescents, as well as in adults, and especially because receiving a psychiatric label vastly increases the chances of being prescribed one or more of these drugs. A Jason Aronson Book

Providing historical and sociological analyses, the contributors demonstrate bias in diagnoses, stemming from sexism, racism, ageism, homophobia/heterosexism, and classism. They argue that awareness of bias is important to any "helping" profession involved with diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, mental retardation, parental alienation syndrome, learning disabilities, sexual dysfunction, depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, false memory syndrome, agoraphobia, eating disorders, histrionic personality, and menstrual distress. **Summing Up: Recommended. (CHOICE)** Taken as a whole these collected essays offer an interesting starting point from which to begin a more rigorous inquiry into the problem and ultimately encourage action at both the individual and the professional level. The authors of this text should be congratulated on their worthy attempt to meet this challenge. **(PsycCRITIQUES)** The collection is powerful, unique, comprehensive, cogent, sane, balanced, and extremely important. It covers almost every major form of bias and oppression, as well as the profound biases embedded in many individual diagnostic labels. This is a must-read for all mental health professionals and their clients. (Phyllis Chesler, Ph.D., emerita professor of psychology and women studies at the College of Staten Island (CUNY), author of 12 books, including *Women and*) This is an extraordinarily important book. It should be required reading for all mental health professionals and especially for all teaching programs. Further, it could serve as an excellent illustration of the social construction of what comes to be called science. It is that and also much more than an intellectual exercise because these issues affect profoundly the fate of so many people. (Jean Baker Miller, M.D., director of the Jean Baker Miller Training Institute and author of *Toward a New Psychology of Women*) By unraveling the roles of ideology, socially-constructed norms, and commercial interests in psychiatric diagnosis, this valuable book of original essays helps to explain the meteoric rise in psychotropic drug use and the new social trend of psychopharmacophilia. A book of accessible and stimulating original essays that unravels the complex web of transscientific factors and bias that enter into psychiatric diagnosis. (Sheldon Krinsky, Tufts University Planning At Tufts University) From the Publisher- Written accessibly for lay people but packed with information of immediate relevance to therapists, counselors, lawyers, physicians, nurses - Thorough and sophisticated coverage of bias in diagnosis and its life-changing consequences for patients and their families - Scientifically-grounded, cogently argued, and brilliantly reasoned - Invaluable for practitioners, most of whom are unaware of the depth and breadth of bias in psychiatric diagnosis and of the cavalier way in which creators of psychiatric diagnoses distort or ignore the relevant scientific research - Individual chapters about a vast array of forms of bias, including racism, sexism, ageism, classism, and heterosexism - Individual chapters about a great many specific diagnoses - Filled with practical advice for patients, their families, and therapists about ways to minimize the harm that can result from being psychiatrically diagnosed - Some chapters about legal aspects of bias in psychiatric diagnosis - The first-ever empirical study of the absence of critical thinking about psychiatric diagnosis in abnormal psychology textbooks - Invaluable for undergraduates and graduate students for providing a counterbalance to the unquestioning, uncritical ways that psychiatric diagnosis is currently taught About the Author Paula J. Caplan, Ph.D., is a clinical and research psychologist, Adjunct Professor (Research) at the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women at Brown University, and Adjunct Professor at Washington College of Law, American University, and author of ten previous books. Lisa Cosgrove, Ph.D. is a clinical and

research psychologist and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling and School Psychology at the University of Massachusetts at Boston.