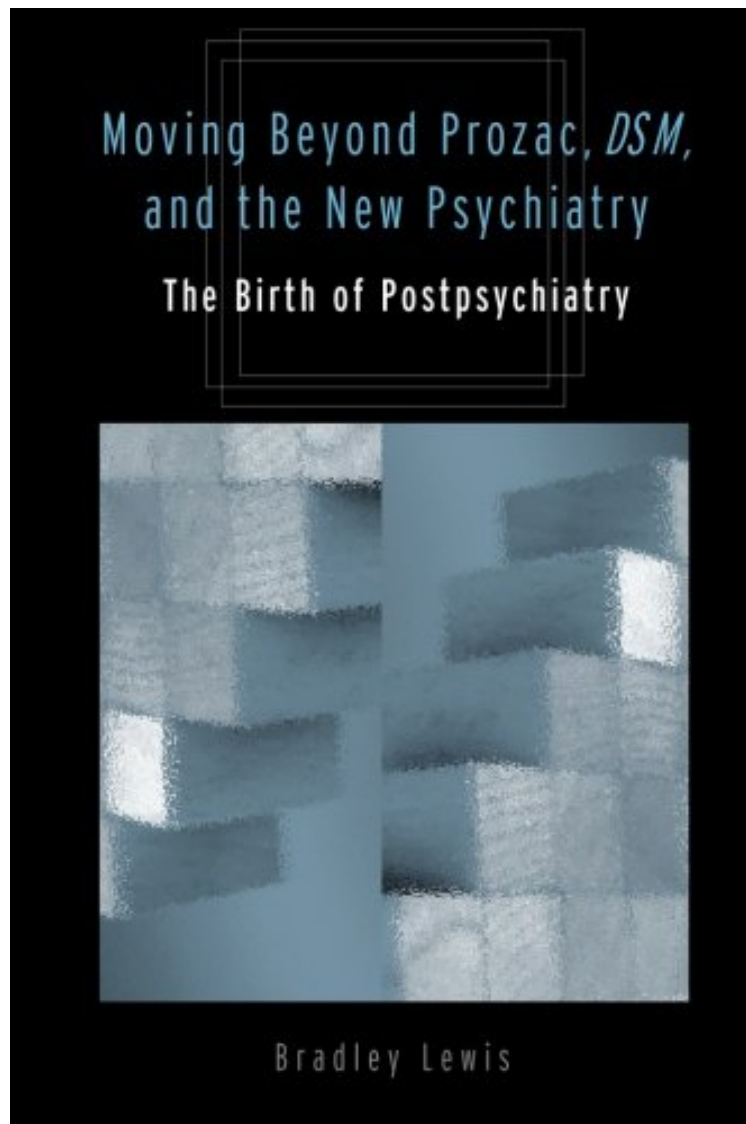


(Download pdf ebook) Moving Beyond Prozac, DSM, and the New Psychiatry: The Birth of Postpsychiatry (Corporealities: Discourses Of Disability)

Moving Beyond Prozac, DSM, and the New Psychiatry: The Birth of Postpsychiatry (Corporealities: Discourses Of Disability)

Bradley Lewis

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#2226470 in Books University of Michigan Press 2006-02-02 2006-02-02 Original language: English PDF # 1
9.00 x .70 x 6.00l, .72 #File Name: 0472031171216 pages | File size: 57.Mb

Bradley Lewis : Moving Beyond Prozac, DSM, and the New Psychiatry: The Birth of Postpsychiatry (Corporealities: Discourses Of Disability) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Moving Beyond Prozac, DSM, and the New Psychiatry: The Birth of Postpsychiatry (Corporealities: Discourses Of Disability):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well thought out and clearly argued
By Scott Wallin
This book analyzes a critically important aspect of psychiatry that remains largely unaddressed in our society. Psychiatry purports to be objective in its understanding and practice. However this is impossible because our understandings of mental illness are tied to cultural values and socioeconomic realities that intimately shape our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. While both the DSM and biomedical research do not deny that diagnoses continue to be based on ultimately subjective symptoms and not etiology, the fact that psychiatry is not an atheoretical science remains a critical blindspot for general society and even many clinicians. The mistaken reliance on an "objective" science therefore leads to policies and practices that are incomplete at best. When coupled with oppressive language, power imbalances, and sole or improper reliance on psychotropic medicines, they can even exacerbate a person's distress. Bradley Lewis considers mental illness and psychiatry through the lens of disability, and therefore reminds us that we must bring vital sociocultural concerns back to the table. This is so important today when insurance companies operate from the principle that it is much cheaper to treat people with a 10 minute MD visit and medication, regardless if the outcome is far inferior to treatment that includes social, cultural, economic, legal, and spiritual concerns. As long as society does not challenge the current "new psychiatry," we will continue to provide inadequate support to a great percentage of our fellow citizens. I believe that this book is necessary reading for any clinician. It is also very helpful for anyone wishing to shape and improve our communities and society's response and support to those among us who experience psychological and emotional distress.
10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A different vision of psychiatry
By NGAs
As a person working in community mental health I've often been frustrated with the way social inequalities become framed as signs of psychopathology. Brad Lewis' text provides a rich theoretical language in which to situate emerging bioethical debates, and though post-structuralist and pragmatic theories of the sign are certainly a bit ivory tower, I find that they have enabled me to think critically about the politics of psychiatric knowledge production. Another reviewer commented negatively, suggesting that this kind of intellectual work ignores the realities of "busy clinics and very sick patients." I have to disagree, as it is often psychiatry-as-usual that ignores the complexity of public health debates, cross-cultural diagnosis, and the life-world ramifications of treatment in its rigid quest for scientific validity. I highly recommend this text to anyone who is frustrated with the state of contemporary psychiatry and wants a new set of tools for shaping its future. Full disclosure: I took a course with Lewis that was key in my development.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A masterly, teacherly text, well worth the time...
By kerwynk
I have used this book in several of my classes. Lewis explains post-modern thought in relation to science extremely effectively, as well as a nuanced understanding of how DSM categories are constructed. At precisely the moment when my students ask "what is the alternative?" he provides one, rethinking how science could be performed through more democratic means. This is an enormously thoughtful and teacherly book, and I am grateful to be able to use it in my classes.

Moving Beyond Prozac, DSM, and the New Psychiatry offers an analysis and critique of contemporary psychiatric practice from a variety of critical perspectives, ranging from Michel Foucault to Donna Haraway. This contribution to the burgeoning field of medical humanities contends that psychiatry's move away from a theory-based model (one favoring psychoanalysis and other talk therapies) to a more scientific model (based on new breakthroughs in neuroscience and pharmacology) has been detrimental to both the profession and its clients. This shift towards a science-based model includes the codification of the Diagnostic and Statistic Manual of Mental Disorders to the status of standard scientific reference, enabling mental-health practitioners to assign tidy classifications for any mental disturbance or deviation. Psychiatrist and cultural studies scholar Bradley Lewis argues for postpsychiatry, a new psychiatric practice informed by the insights of poststructuralist theory.

"Interesting and fresh - represents an important and vigorous challenge to a discipline that at the moment is stuck in its own devices and needs a radical critique to begin to move ahead." - Paul McHugh, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
About the Author
Bradley Lewis, M.D., Ph.D, is a psychiatrist at the New York University Medical Center and teaches in the Gallatin School of Individualized Study.