

Social Construction of Mental Health and Illness (920:571)

Spring 2009

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This course serves as a general introduction to social constructionist approaches to the sociology of mental health and illness. The first part of the course, presented by Professor Horwitz, focuses on the basic theoretical assumptions of constructionist approaches and their differences with other approaches to the study of mental illness.

Course grades are based on three requirements: 1) leading one or two discussion sections over the course of the semester (10%); 2) class participation (20%); and 3) a research paper on a course-related topic of the student's choosing that the instructor has approved (70%). Students will discuss their ideas for this paper in class on March 23 and present an oral summary of the paper on May 4.

The outline of topics and dates is:

1-26 Overview of the course and discussion of student and instructor interests. No readings.

2-2 Basic Aspects of the Social Constructionist Approach and Its Relationship to Other Approaches to the Study of Mental Illness

Allan Horwitz, *Creating Mental Illness*, Introduction and Chapter 1.

Allan Horwitz. 1999. "A Critique and Synthesis of Four Sociological Perspectives on Mental Illness" pp. 57-78 in Carol Aneshensel and Jo Phelan (eds) Handbook of the Sociology of Mental Health. New York: Plenum.

Thomas Szasz. 1960. "The Myth of Mental Illness." *American Psychologist* 15: 113-118.

Jerome C. Wakefield, 1992. "The Concept of Mental Disorder: On the Boundary Between Biological Facts and Social Values." *American Psychologist* 47:373-388.

Recommended

Ruth Benedict, "Anthropology and the Abnormal," Journal of General Psychology 10: 59-80.

Michel Foucault. 1965. *Birth of the Clinic*. Vintage.

Michel Foucault. 1988. *Madness and Civilization*. Vintage.

Walter Gove. 1970. "Societal reaction as an explanation of mental illness: An evaluation." American Sociological Review, 35, 873-884.

Ian Hacking. 1999. "Madness: Biological or Constructed?" pp. 100-124 in *The Social Construction of What?* Harvard University Press.

Allan Horwitz. 1979. "Models, muddles, and mental illness labeling." Journal of Health and Social Behavior, 20, 296-300.

Elizabeth Lunbeck, The Psychiatric Persuasion: Knowledge, Gender, and Power in Modern America, Ch. 3, pp. 46-80.

David Mechanic, Some Factors in Identifying and Defining Mental Illness, Mental Hygiene 1962, pp. 66-74.

Jane M. Murphy. 1976. "Psychiatric Labeling in Cross-Cultural Perspective." Science 191: 1019-1028.

Thomas Scheff. 1963. "The Role of the Mentally Ill and the Dynamics of Mental Disorder." Sociometry 26: 436-453.

Bruce Link et al. 1989. "A modified labeling theory approach to mental disorders. American Sociological Review, 54, 400-423.

Thomas Scheff. 1966. Being Mentally Ill (first edition). Chicago: Aldine. Pp. 7 – 104.

Peggy Thoits, "Sociological Approaches to Mental Illness" Pp. 121-138 in Horwitz and Scheid.

2-9 Creating Mental Illness: The Case of the DSM

Ronald Bayer and Robert Spitzer, 1985, "Neurosis, Psychodynamics, and DSM-III." Archives of General Psychiatry 42: 187-196.

Allan V. Horwitz. 2002. *Creating Mental Illness*. Ch. 2, 3, 4.

Rick Mayes and Allan V. Horwitz. 2005. "DSM-III and the Revolution in the Classification of Mental Illness" Journal of the History of Behavioral Sciences (Vol. 41): 249-267.

Mitchell Wilson. 1993. "DSM-III and the transformation of American psychiatry: A history," American Journal of Psychiatry, 150, 400.

Recommended

J. P. Feighner et al. 1972. "Diagnostic criteria for use in psychiatric research." Archives of General Psychiatry 26: 57-63.

Stuart Kirk and Herb Kutchins. 1992. *The Selling of DSM: The Rhetoric of Science in Psychiatry*. New York: Aldine.

2-16 Creating Depression and Anxiety

Allan V. Horwitz. 2009. *Anxiety*. In Gerald Grob and Allan V. Horwitz, *Conundrums in Modern American Medicine*. Rutgers University Press.

Allan Horwitz and Jerome Wakefield. 2007. *The Loss of Sadness: How Psychiatry Transformed Normal Misery into Depressive Disorder*. Oxford University Press. Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6.

Recommended

Kessler, Ronald C., Patricia Beglund, Olga Demler et al. 2003. "The Epidemiology of Major Depressive Disorder: Results from the National Comorbidity Survey Replication." *Journal of the American Medical Association* 289:3095-3105.

Peter Kramer. 1993. *Listening to Prozac: A Psychiatrist Explores Antidepressant Drugs and the Remaking of the Self*. Viking.

Christopher Lane. 2007. *Shyness: How Normal Behavior Became a Sickness*. Yale University Press.

Andrea Tone. 2005. "Listening to the Past: History, Psychiatry, and Anxiety," *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 50, 2005, 378.

2-23 Creating Other Categories of Mental Disorder

Allan V. Horwitz. 2009. *Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*. In Gerald Grob and Allan V. Horwitz, *Conundrums in Modern American Medicine*. Rutgers University Press.

Edward O. Laumann, Anthony Paik, and Raymond C. Rosen. 1999. "Sexual Dysfunction in the United States: Prevalence and Predictors." *Journal of the American Medical Association* 281:537-544.

Scott, Wilbur J. 1990. "PTSD in DSM-III: A Case in the Politics of Diagnosis and Disease." *Social Problems* 37:294-310.

Recommended

Ronald Bayer. 1987. *Homosexuality and American Psychiatry: The Politics of Diagnosis*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Figert, Anne E. 1996. *Women and the Ownership of PMS: The Structuring of a Psychiatric Disorder*. New York: Walter de Gruyter.

Hacking, Ian. 1995. *Rewriting the Soul: Multiple Personality and the Sciences of Memory*. Princeton University Press.

Mark Micale. 1993. "On the disappearance of hysteria: A Study in the clinical deconstruction of a diagnosis." *Isis*, September, 496-526.

Alan Young. 1995. *The Harmony of Illusions: Inventing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

3-2 Creating Biological Psychiatry I: Psychotropic Drugs

Charles Barber. 2008. *Comfortably Numb: How Psychiatry is Medicating a Nation*. Pantheon.

David Healy. 1997. *The Antidepressant Era*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
 T. M. Luhrmann. 2000. *Of Two Minds: The Growing Disorder in American Psychiatry*. New York: Knopf.

David Herzberg. 2009. *Happy Pills: From Miltown to Prozac*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

Allan V. Horwitz. 2002. *Creating Mental Illness*. University of Chicago Press, Ch. 8.

Allan V. Horwitz and Jerome C. Wakefield. 2007. *The Loss of Sadness*, Ch. 9.

Andrew Lakoff. 2005. *Pharmaceutical Reason: Knowledge and Value in Global Psychiatry*. Cambridge University Press.

Jonathan Metzl. 2003. *Prozac on the Couch: Prescribing Gender in the Era of Wonder Drugs*. Duke University Press.

Edward Shorter. 2008. *Before Prozac: The Troubled History of Mood Disorders in Psychiatry*. Oxford University Press.

Andrea Tone. 2009. *The Age of Anxiety: A History of America's Turbulent Affair with Tranquillizers*. Basic Books.

3-9 Creating Biological Psychiatry II: Genes

Peter Bearman. 2008. "Exploring Genetics and Social Structure." *American Journal of Sociology*, 114 (Suppl), v-x.

Abshalom Caspi, et al. 2003. "Influence of Life Stress on Depression: Moderation by a Polymorphism in the 5-HTT Gene." *Science*, 301, 386-389.

Peter Conrad. 2001. "Genetic Optimism: Framing Genes and Mental Illness in the News." *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* 25, 225-247.

Allan V. Horwitz. 2005. "Media Portrayals and Health Inequalities: A Case Study of Characterizations of Gene X Environment Interactions." *Journal of Gerontology* in press.

Allan V. Horwitz and Jerome C. Wakefield. 2007. *The Loss of Sadness*, Ch. 8.

Sara Shostak, Peter Conrad, and Allan V. Horwitz. 2008. Sequencing and its consequences: Path dependence and the relationships between genetics and medicalization. *American Journal of Sociology*, 114 (Suppl), S287-S316.

Recommended

Joseph Dumit. 2003. *Picturing Personhood: Brain Scans and Biomedical Identity*. Princeton University Press.

Nikolas Rose. 2007. *The Politics of Life Itself: Biomedicine, Power, and Subjectivity in the Twenty-First Century*. Princeton University Press.

3-16 Spring Break**3-23 Oral Student Presentations of Ideas for Papers****3-30 Dominant Approaches in the Sociology of Mental Illness**

Ronald C. Kessler, Patricia Berglund, Olga Demler, Robert Jin, Kathleen R. Merikangas, Ellen E. Walters. 2005. Lifetime Prevalence and Age-of-Onset Distributions of *DSM-IV* Disorders in the National Comorbidity Survey Replication. *Archives of General Psychiatry* 62:593-602.

Pearlin, Leonard I; Menaghan, Elizabeth G; Lieberman, Morton A; Mullan, Joseph T. The Stress Process. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 22:337-356

Turner, R. Jay; Lloyd, Donald A. 1999. The Stress Process and the Social Distribution of Depression. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 40:374-404

R. Jay Turner; Blair Wheaton; Donald A. Lloyd. 1995. The Epidemiology of Social Stress *American Sociological Review* 60:104-125

Recommended

Ronald C. Kessler. Sex Differences in DSM-III-R Psychiatric Disorders in the United States: Results From the National Comorbidity Survey. *JAMWA* 53:148-158

Carles Muntaner, William W. Eaton, Richard Miech, and Patricia O'Campo. 2004. Socioeconomic Position and Major Mental Disorders. *Epidemiologic Reviews* Vol. 26

Pearlin, Leonard I. 1989. The Sociological Study of Stress. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 30:241-56

Reynolds, John R; Turner, R. Jay. Major life Events: Their personal meaning, resolution, and mental health significance. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. Vol 49(2) Jun 2008, 223-237

4-6 Problems and Alternatives to the Stress Paradigm I: Social Psychological Considerations

Jane McLeod and Kathryn Lively. 2007. Social Psychology and Stress Research. pps. 275-306 in William S. Avison, Jane D. McLeod, Bernice A. Pescosolido, eds. *Mental Health, Social Mirror*. Springer

Thoits, Peggy A. 2006. Personal Agency in the Stress Process. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. 47:309-323

Sarah Rosenfield, Mary Clare Lennon, Helene Raskin White. 2005. The Self and Mental Health: Self-Salience and the Emergence of Internalizing and Externalizing Problems. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 46:323-340

Jane McLeod and James M. Nonnemaker. 1999. Social Stratification and Inequality. Pp. 301-320 in *Handbook of Psychiatric Sociology*, edited by Carol Anaschensel and Jo Phelan. New York

Recommended

Thoits, Peggy. 1999. Self, Identity, and Mental Health, in *Handbook of Psychiatric Sociology* edited by Carol Anaschensel and Jo Phelan. New York: Plenum.

Jason Schnittke¹ and Jane D. McLeod. The Social Psychology of Health Disparities. *Annual Review of Sociology* 2005. 31:75–103

Aaron T. Beck. The Current State of Cognitive Therapy. A 40-Year Retrospective. *Archives of General Psychiatry* Vol 62, Sep 2005

Hazel Markus. 1977. Self-Schemata and Processing Information about the Self. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 35:63-78

McLeod, Jane and James M. Nonnemaker. 1999. Social Stratification and Inequality. Pp. 301-320 in *Handbook of Psychiatric Sociology*, edited by Carol Anaschensel and Jo Phelan. New York

4-13 Problems and Alternatives to the Stress Paradigm II: Culture versus Structure

Chapters 1, 3, 5, and 6: Department of Health and Human Services. 2001. *Mental Health: Culture, Race, and Ethnicity—A Supplement to Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services, Rockville, MD

Simon, Robin and Kristen Marcussen. 1999. Marital Transitions, Marital Beliefs, and Mental Health. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 40:111-125

Recommended

Harris, Katherine, Edlund, Mark J. Larson, Sharon. 2005. Racial and Ethnic Differences in the Mental Health Problems and Use of Mental Health Care, *Medical Care* 43:775-784.

Javier I. Escobar, MD, Constanza Hoyos Nervi, PsyD, and Michael A. Gara. 2000. Immigration and Mental Health: Mexican Americans in the United States. *Harvard Review of Psychiatry* 8:64–72

Brown, Tony, Sherrill Sellers, Kendrick Brown, and James Jackson. 1999. Race, Ethnicity, and Culture in the Sociology of Mental Health. Pp. 167–82 in *Handbook of the Sociology of Mental Health*, edited by C. Aneshensel and J. Phelan. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum.

Markus, Hazel R. and Shinobu Kitayama. 1991. Culture and the Self: Implications for Cognition, Emotion, and Motivation. *Psychological Review* 98:224–53

Luisa Franzini, Maria Eugenia Fernandez-Esquer. 2004. Socioeconomic, Cultural, and Personal Influences on Health Outcomes in Low Income Mexican-origin Individuals in Texas. *Social Science & Medicine*. 59:1629-46

4-20 Intersectionality and the Problem of Single Variable Analyses

Laura P. Kohn and Kira M. Hudson. 2002. Gender, Ethnicity and Depression: Intersectionality and Context in Mental Health Research with African American Women. *African American Research Perspectives* 8:174-184.

Prudence Carter, Sherrill L Sellers, Catherine Squires. Reflections on Race/Ethnicity, Class, and Gender Inclusive Research. 2002. *African American Research Perspectives* 8:111-124

Sarah Rosenfield, Julie Phillips, and Helene Raskin White. 2006. Gender, Race, and the Self in Mental Health and Crime. *Social Problems* 53:161-185.

Jane D. Mcleod and Timothy J. Owens. 2004. Psychological Well-Being in the Early Life Course: Variations by Socioeconomic Status, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity. *Social Psychology Quarterly* 67:257-278

Recommended

Pamela Braboy Jackson and Sarah Mustillo. 2001. I Am Woman: The Impact of Social Identities on African American Women's Mental Health. *Women & Health*. Vol. 32

David R Williams, David T. Takeuchi and Russell K. Adair, Russell K. 1992. Socioeconomic Status and Psychiatric Disorder among Blacks and Whites. *Social Forces*. 71:179-194.

Turner, R Jay. Avison, William R. 2003. Status Variations in Stress Exposure: Implications for the Interpretation of Research on Race, Socioeconomic Status, and Gender. *Journal of Health & Social Behavior*. 44:488-505

Michael Hughes and Melvin E. Thomas. 1998. The Continuing Significance of Race Revisited: A Study of Race, Class, and Quality of Life in America, 1972 to 1996. *American Sociological Review* 63:785-795

4-27 The Problem of Contradictory Findings

Joshua Breslau, Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, Kenneth S. Kendler, Maxwell Su1, David Williams and Ronald C. Kessler. 2006. Specifying Race-Ethnic Differences In Risk For Psychiatric Disorder In A USA National Sample. *Psychological Medicine*, 36:57-68

Susan Gore and Robert H. Aseltine, Jr. 2003. Race and Ethnic Differences in Depressed Mood Following the Transition from High School. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 44:370-389

Rosenfield, Sarah and Dena Smith. 2008. Race and Depression: Resolving Contradictory Findings on Racial Disparities. International Conference on Social Stress Research, Santa Fe

Perreira, Krista M., Natalia Deeb-Sossa, Kathleen Mullan Harris, and Kenneth Bollen. 2005. What Are We Measuring? An Evaluation of the CES-D across Race/Ethnicity and Immigrant Generation. *Social Forces* 83:4

5-4 Student Reports of Final Papers