



Psychoanalytic Diagnosis: Understanding Personality Structure in the Clinical Process

Nancy McWilliams

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This acclaimed clinical guide and widely adopted text has filled a key need in the field since its original publication. Nancy McWilliams makes psychoanalytic personality theory and its implications for practice accessible to practitioners of all levels of experience. She explains major character types and demonstrates specific ways that understanding the patient's individual personality structure can influence the therapist's focus and style of intervention. Guidelines are provided for developing a systematic yet flexible diagnostic formulation and using it to inform treatment. Highly readable, the book features a wealth of illustrative clinical examples.

New to This Edition

*Reflects the ongoing development of the author's approach over nearly two decades.

*Incorporates important advances in attachment theory, neuroscience, and the study of trauma.

*Material on the contemporary relational movement in psychoanalysis.

*Additional case vignettes.

Psychoanalytic Diagnosis: Understanding Personality Structure in the Clinical Process Details

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Ignatius Vonnegut says

Brilliant writing. Meat for the skeleton!

Elena says

I read this book to learn more about bipolar as I have a friend with this diagnosis. This book was recommended to me by another friend and I was glad I could get my hands on it.

Its written in professional language and sometimes it was hard to understand some things, because I'm not a doctor and psychology is just something of an interest of mine.

But it answered all my questions. It is a very interesting reading, but be prepared to what you might find out, the author just puts the info out there as this book is meant for professionals.

I really liked the way the book is structured. It not only gives you the description of the outer signs of the diagnosis, but it also gives you the idea of inner life of the person with that diagnosis. Scary.

After I finished reading about bipolar, I couldn't help myself and read the rest of the book.

And then I read it again, this time with a highlighter and markers.

A great read. I will definitely be rereading it from time to time.

By the way, after reading this book I talked to a friend of mine, who is a practicing psychiatrist, to see if I understood the information right and to my surprise (I did mention its kinda hard to understand some things in the book) everything I read I understood spot on.

It didn't make me feel better though as bipolar is a scary diagnosis, but at least now I understand what my friend is going through on daily basis and can if not help, but ease some of his pain or at least make it easier for him to go through what he's going through.

Ugn? says

Labai verta skaityti visiems, kuri? darbas tiesiogiai susij? su pagalba kitam žmogui. Gali pad?ti geriau suprasti, kod?l žmon?s kartais elgiasi taip mums ne?prastai ir ?gauti daugiau empatijos vis? (?skaitant ir save pat?) atžvilgiu. Diagnozuoti vis? iš eil?s po to nepatar?iau (nebent išsilavinimas leidžia)

Jon Frederickson says

In an era devoted to phenomenological diagnosis (listing observable symptoms), how refreshing it is to find a book like this which helps to explain what actually causes those symptoms so you know what to treat! A list of symptoms tells us what the problem is but not what causes those symptoms, what we actually have to treat in psychotherapy. McWilliams does a wonderful job helping the reader understand the patterns of human behavior that generate different symptom pictures. Further, she shows how to talk to and help patients who suffer from those automatic patterns of behavior called character structure. She distill complicated theory into a usable and readable format from which any therapist can readily benefit. This book will deepen the

thinking and refine the responsiveness of therapists from any theoretical orientation. Co-Creating Change: Effective Dynamic Therapy Techniques

Anton says

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Jajabo says

A much deeper understanding of diagnostics

This book simply doesn't get outdated. I've read it years ago, and have been consulting it occasionally. Dr. McWilliams fluently integrates three major views in classic and contemporary psychodynamic thinking, while explaining diagnostics with such an ease. Her examples and comments are delightful. A practical, intelligent and intuitive book to accompany any clinician who thinks beyond the DSM.

Υπ?τιος Βαρελ?ς says

Εξαιρετικ? βιβλ?ο, αυστηρ? για θεραπευτ?ς και γ?στες ? σπουδαστ?ς κλινικ?ς ψυχολογ?ας και ψυχαν?λυσης. Η δε?τερη αυτ? ?κδοση ε?ναι αναθεωρημ?νη και περι?χει πολλ? σ?γχρονα στοιχε?α. Σε κ?ποια σημε?α θα ?θελα καλ?τερη μετ?φραση και κ?ποιοι ?ροι δεν ?χουν αποδοθε? ?ριστα στην ελληνικ? γλ?σσα, ?μως αυτ? δεν μει?νει την αξ?α του συγγρ?ματος. Μπορε? κ?ποιος να διαφωνε? με κ?ποιες απ?ψεις της McWilliams, ?πως κι εγ?, καθ?ς και με κ?ποιες αναφορ?ς της στο Freud που πλ?ον ?χουν ανατραπε? απ? τα επιστημονικ? και ερευνητικ? δεδομ?να, ?μως γενικ? ?χει κ?νει πολ? καλ? δουλει? στον τομ?α επισκ?πησης των τ?σεων και απ?ψεων ?λλων ερευνητ?ν και θεραπευτ?v. Κ?ποιες περιγραφ?ς προσωπικοτ?των και στοιχε?ων παθολογ?ας ε?ναι οι καλ?τερες που ?χω διαβ?σει!

Θα ?λεγα ?τι κ?θε θεραπευτ?ς θα πρ?πει οπωσδ?ποτε να γνωρ?ζει στοιχε?α κλινικ?ς ψυχολογ?ας και βασικ?ς δι?γνωσης (τουλ?χιστον αν μη τι ?λλο για να μην μπλ?κει εκε? ?που δεν θα ?πρεπε!) αλλ? και κ?ποια στοιχε?α της προσωπικ?τητας που μπορο?ν να καθοδηγ?σουν τη συμπεριφορ? του θεραπευτ?, ανεξαρτ?τως μεθ?δου. Αυτ? μπορε? να τα βρει στο συγκεκριμ?νο βιβλ?ο (παρ?λο που η συγγραφ?ας ?χει τη βασικ? προσ?γγιση εν?ς ψυχαναλυτ?), μαζ? βεβα?ως με πιο προχωρημ?να στοιχε?α που απαιτο?v καλ? κλινικ? γν?ση και πε?ρα για να γ?νουν κατανοητ?. Ε?ναι ?να βιβλ?ο εκμ?θησης αλλ? και αναφορ?ς.

Fulya TEZEL says

Nancy McWilliams'ın Psikanalitik Tan? adlı? kitabı? özetle bir kitap de?il, bir okul. Ki?ilik yap?s? s?n?flar?nda psikanalitik yakla??ma dair müthi? bir giri? düzey kitabı?. Okuyucuya teorik bilgiye bo?madan, y?llar?n deneyiminin içinden süzülmü? ay?r?c? tan?ya yönelik ipuçları?yla dolu, bir psikoterapistin her dan??an?na özgü benimsemesi gereken do?ru teknik duru?u net bir ?ekilde anlatan

ba?ucu kitaplar?ndan. Ayr?ca t?rkçe bask?s?n?n son derece iyi bir çeviri oldu?unu söyleyebilirim ve çeviride eme?i geçen herkese ve Erkan Kalem'e okuyucu olarak te?ekkür ederim.

Sydney says

I don't necessarily agree with everything in this book and I often think that this form of diagnosis is outdated. However, McWilliams is humble, considerate of complexities and nuance, intuitive and insightful in her writing. Admittedly, she writes from her own experience, both personally and with clients. I found her clinical insights and narratives helpful and I loved the chapter that broke down the psychological defenses. I've always loved Anna Freud and McWilliams interpretations really bring them to life.

Jessica says

What a wonderful and clear picture of modern day psychoanalytic and psychodynamic approaches to understanding and treating the individual! McWilliam's conceptualization of different personality organizations (e.g., Obsessive-compulsive, depressive, anti-social, etc.) demonstrates a non pathological way of understanding how individuals operate in the world, as well as how these personality organizations can become pathological when their defining characteristics move too far along the spectrum to more borderline or severe modes of operation. Overall, an EXCELLENT, and fairly easy read. One of the most helpful psychology books I have read to date.

Christian Buckley says

While I may not agree with many aspects of this book, I do recognize that individuals lead with certain personality traits -- and understanding your own individual traits, and learning to recognize the traits of others, is the beginning of personal connection and communication. Good leaders are able to recognize and communicate with each personality trait.

David says

Nancy McWilliams does a wonderful job of filling in the psychopathological gaps left in the DSM with psychodynamic theory. She explains the rich history of psychodynamic theory as well as the development of the disorders listed in the DSM. Her writing style is erudite yet down to earth. She comes across as having a delightful sense of humor which is no small task in a book covering this subject matter. I would highly recommend that all students of psychopathology read this book in addition of the Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual. They may very well change your thinking on psychodynamic theory!

Sarah Evan says

This book has integrated my first year or so of psychology classes (especially theories of personality,

abnormal psychology and developmental theory) with the therapeutic lessons and practice I have had. IT IS SO HELPFUL in bringing all these topics together to apply to therapeutic practice. I can't wait to read more of her work!

Patricia says

his is a must have primer for all who practice psychotherapy, counseling, etc. It was written to be such.

Each and every Axis II diagnosis is analyzed from the simply neurotic to the full blown personality disorder. and the good news is that she tells you what to do about it; how to approach each presentation, how to help each presentation.

so read it and find yourself, cringe, move on and read about your clients in a really refreshing and intelligent (not unreadable intellectual) format.

Nancy McWilliams knows her stuff, she's a professor who imparts this information to the lucky students where she teaches; and she's humble about it....it's actually a very entertaining, as well as informative read.

Melanie Kirdasi says

I had ordered this book to write a paper for a class but the book never arrived, luckily I came across the book several months later in the school library. Though it appears studious it is not a dry read. It is a thoughtful and reflective book that shows insight into the patient counselor relationship in a very humanistic way. The disorders that are covered in the book are of the more well known categories that a therapist is likely to encounter with patients but the authors understanding of the cognitive framing and emotional processing that her patients experience branch out into a deeper study of the psyche than the table of contents hints at. A very valuable read for anyone in counseling, clinical psychology, or interested in communication with a more refined awareness.
