

Psychopathology

Psyche – as in mind

Pathology – disease

The study of mind (not brain) disease

Mind Disease (aka Mental Illness)?

- How is disease/illness typically determined?
 - Presence of some process not typically a part of normal physical, physiological, anatomical, or biological functioning. Such as “abnormal cell proliferation/mutation” (tumors, viruses), “below normal” (cell counts, temperature, homeostatic aberrations), “damage” (fractures, bruises)
 - But mental illness is determined primarily through observed and reported behaviors and internal experiences (thoughts and feelings)

Behavior illness?

- If mental illness is determined through observed behaviors and reported internal experiences of thoughts and feelings , who determines that these are problematic?
- Context (Wakefield, 1992a)
Perspective (Szasz, 1961)
Consensus

Illness of context/experience?

- What is a normal experience?

War, abuse, trauma

Poverty, oppression

Prophecy, tongues, supernatural

Flying and other technological advances

Same-gender marriage

Fear of injections, public speaking

Believing that Jesus is God

Psychodynamic Model

- Our problematic behaviors and/or our emotional distress are the result of our early childhood experiences

Cognitive Model

- Our problematic behaviors and/or our emotional distress are the result of our problematic thoughts

Emotion-Focused Model

- Our problematic behaviors result from unaddressed emotional needs that result in behaviors that try to get those needs met

Biological Model

- Our behavioral problems and/or our distress is the result of neurological/biochemical imbalances or genetic factors

Sociocultural Model

- Our behavioral problems and/or our distress is the result of our environment, its messages/definitions/reactions to/of us

Systemic Model

- Our behavioral problems and/or our distress is the result of our relational/familial contexts and the messages/definitions/reactions to us to take on/facilitate roles for different members of a family

Psychospiritual Model

- Links purposeful existence with psychological and emotional experience
- Includes contexts of suffering and sin
- Includes the intergenerational and principalities (sociocultural/geopolitical) contexts
- Takes into account God and His supernatural power to transform us and to transcend natural limitation

Why Diagnose?

- Treatment Planning
- Prognostic Implications
- Consumer Protection/Informed Consent
- Communication of Empathy
- Forestalling Flights from Treatment