

# 7AAN2003 The Concept of Mental Disorder

Syllabus – Academic year 2018/19 (semester 2)

Basic information

*Credits*

20

*Module Convenor*

Alexander Bird (Email: Alexander.Bird@kcl.ac.uk; Office: Philosophy Building 610)

*Module Teachers*

Derek Bolton, Norman Poole, Mohammed Abouelleil Rashed, Alexander Bird

*Lecture and seminar time and venue*

Tuesdays 16.00–18.00, PHILOSOPHY BLDG 405

<i>Module description</i>	This module will critically appraise several main approaches to the concept of mental disorder. First, the critiques of mainstream psychiatry, beginning in the 1960s and still current, mainly to the effect that normal distress or social deviance is being inappropriately pathologized; second, conceptualisations of mental disorder in the standard psychiatry diagnostic manuals of the World Health Organisation and the American Psychiatric Association; and third, ‘naturalist’ approaches to the definition of mental disorder that invoke population statistical or evolutionary theory based norms. Distinctive features include coverage of various approaches to this multi-faceted problem.
<i>Learning outcomes</i>	By the end of the module, students will be able to demonstrate intellectual, transferable and practicable skills appropriate to a level-7 module. In particular they will be able to demonstrate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Understanding of contemporary controversies about the nature and extent of mental disorder, conceptualisations used in mainstream psychiatry, and theoretical definitions in terms of human nature.</li><li>2. Knowledge of the main positions in the philosophy of psychiatry relevant to the definition of mental disorder.</li><li>3. Ability to assess and develop these positions</li><li>4. Ability to exercise their powers of intellectual criticism by critically commenting upon the views discussed</li><li>5. Ability to relate material from the philosophy of psychiatry to other branches of philosophy, such as philosophy of psychology or philosophy of medicine</li><li>6. Ability to form philosophical views of their own which they are prepared to defend or amend in light of criticism.</li><li>7. Ability to read closely and gain understanding of relevant texts.</li></ol>

## *Assessment*

Formative Assessment 1 x 3000 max word essay

Essay due by Friday 22 March 2018, by 16.00. Please send your essay in the first instance to Alexander Bird who will direct it to the appropriate module teacher for feedback.

Summative Assessment 1 x 4000 word essay

Essay due by Wednesday 1 May 2018, by 16.00.

## *Consultation times*

Thursday 17.00–18.00

Friday 08.30–09.30

## *Books and Resources*

The readings for the course are separated into the following two categories:

Core Reading reading that everyone who wants proper coverage of the subject must read.

Further Reading additional readings to help further develop your views on a particular subject.

Many of the readings for the course can be found online and some in the following collection of essays:

♦ *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Psychiatry*. Edited W. K. M. Fulford, Martin Davies, Richard G.T. Gipps, George Graham, John Z. Sadler, G. Stanghellini, & Tim Thornton. Oxford University Press, 2013.

The following are helpful texts – book length – with broad coverage of the issues, the first covering the '60s developments and the second updated:

♦ Sedgewick, P. (1982) *Psycho Politics: Laing, Foucault, Goffman, Szasz, and the future of mass psychiatry*. Harper and Row: New York

♦ Bolton D. (2008). *What is mental disorder? An essay in philosophy, science and values*. Oxford University Press

## Other Resources

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy <<https://plato.stanford.edu>>. Please ensure you respect the Encyclopedia's citation policy. See articles on:

- ♦ Philosophy of Psychiatry
- ♦ Mental Illness
- ♦ Delusion
- ♦ Decision-Making Capacity
- ♦ Concepts of Disease and Health
- ♦ Michel Foucault
- ♦ Jacques Lacan
- ♦ Philosophy of Medicine

## Topics and reading

### Week 1: Naturalist Definitions Of Mental Disorder (1): Biostatistical Theory

Alexander Bird

#### *Core Reading*

- Boorse, C. (1975) "On the distinction between disease and illness." *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 5:49- 68. Also in M. Cohen, T. Nagel and T. Scanlon. (eds) *Medicine and Moral Philosophy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1981. p.49-68.
- Kingma, E. (2013) Naturalist accounts of mental disorder. In *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Psychiatry*. Edited W. K. M. Fulford, Martin Davies, Richard G.T. Gipps, George Graham, John Z. Sadler, G. Stanghellini, & Tim Thornton. Oxford University Press, 434- 50.

#### *Further reading*

- Boorse C. (2011) Concepts of Health & Disease. In *Philosophy of Medicine*, Ed. F. Gifford, pp.13-64, Oxford: Elsevier.

### Week 2: Naturalist Definitions Of Mental Disorder (2): Evolutionary Theoretic Dysfunction

Alexander Bird

#### *Core reading*

- Wakefield, J.C. (1992) 'The concept of mental disorder: on the boundary between biological facts and social values.' *American Psychologist*, 47: 373-388. (electronic)
- Bolton, D. (2013) What is mental illness? In *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Psychiatry*. Edited W. K. M. Fulford, Martin Davies, Richard G.T. Gipps, George Graham, John Z. Sadler, G. Stanghellini, & Tim Thornton. Oxford University Press, 434- 50.

#### *Further reading*

- Cosmides, L and Tooby, J. (1999) Toward an Evolutionary Taxonomy of Treatable Conditions. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 108, 453-464.
- Kendell R.E. (1975). The concept of disease and its implications for psychiatry. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 127, 305-15.
- Richters, J.E. and Hinshaw, S.P. (1999) The Abduction of Disorder in Psychiatry. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 108, 438-445.
- Wakefield, J.C. (1992) 'Disorder as a harmful dysfunction: a conceptual critique of DSM-III- R's definition of mental disorder.' *Psychological Review*, 99.2: 232-247

### Week 3: Psychiatric Kinds and Looping Effects

Alexander Bird

#### *Core reading*

- Hacking, Ian (1995). The looping effects of human kinds. In Sperber, D., Premack, D., and Premack, A., editors, *Causal Cognition*, pages 351–94. Clarendon Press, Oxford.
- Hacking, I. (2007). Kinds of people: Moving targets. *Proceedings of the British Academy*, 151:285–318.

#### *Further reading*

- ♦ Cooper, R. (2004.) Why Hacking is wrong about human kinds. *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 55: 73–85.
- ♦ Khalidi, M. A. (2010). Interactive kinds. *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 61:335–60.
- ♦ Hacking, I. 1992. Multiple personality disorder and its hosts. *History of the Human Sciences* 5: 3–31.

#### **Week 4: Mental Health Activism and Challenges to the Mental Disorder Label** Mohammed Rashed

##### *Core reading*

- ♦ Rashed, M. A. (2018). In Defense of Madness: The Problem of Disability. *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* (open access)
- ♦ Schrader, S., Jones, N., and Shattell, M. (2013). Mad Pride: Reflections on Sociopolitical Identity and Mental Diversity in the Context of Culturally Competent Psychiatric Care. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing* 34: 62-64.
- ♦ Radden, J. (2012). Recognition Rights, Mental Health Consumers and Reconstructive Cultural Semantics. *Philosophy, Ethics and Humanities in Medicine* 7(6): 1-8.

##### *Further reading*

- ♦ Bracken, P., and Thomas, P. (2013). Challenges to the Modernist Identity of Psychiatry: User Empowerment & Recovery. In *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy & Psychiatry*
- ♦ Gorman, R. (2013). Mad Nation? Thinking Through Race, Class, and Mad Identity Politics. In *Mad Matters: A Critical Reader in Canadian Mad Studies*.

#### **Week 5: Is Mental Disorder Being Over-Diagnosed? 1960s Critiques to the Present.** Norman Poole

##### *Core Reading*

- ♦ Szasz, L. (1960). The Myth of Mental Illness. 15(2), *The American Psychologist*.
- ♦ Sedgwick, P. (1982). *Psycho Politics: Laing, Foucault, Goffman, Szasz, and the Future of Mass Psychiatry*. Harper & Row: New York. Chapter 1.
- ♦ Bolton D. (2008). *What is mental disorder? An essay in philosophy, science and values*. Oxford University Press. Sections 2.6 and 3.1.
- ♦ Charland, L. (2013). Why Psychiatry Should Fear Medicalisation. In *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy & Psychiatry*.

##### *Further reading*

- ♦ Kutchins H & Kirk S (1999). *Making us crazy: DSM- The Psychiatric Bible and the Creation of Mental Disorders*. NY: NY Free Press. Chapter 1. Diagnosis
- ♦ Hacking, I. (1999) *The social construction of what ..?* Harvard. Chapter 4 Madness: biological or constructed?

#### *Week 6: Reading week*

## Week 7: Are Mental Disorders Brain Disorders?

Derek Bolton

### *Core reading*

- White PD, Rickards H, Zeman. (2012). Time to end the distinction between mental and neurological illnesses. *BMJ*;344:e3454.
- Bolton, D. (2013). Should mental disorders be regarded as brain disorders?: 21st century mental health sciences and implications for research and training. *World Psychiatry*, 12, 24-25.
- Cuthbert BN(2014) Research Domain Criteria matrix. *World Psychiatry*, 13, 28-35.

### *Further reading*

- Banner, N. (2013). Mental disorders are not brain disorders. *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*, 19, 509-513. Commentaries on Cuthbert's target article (2014):
- Wakefield, J. (2014). Wittgenstein's nightmare: why the RDoC grid needs a conceptual dimension. *World Psychiatry*, 13, 38-40.
- M.R. Phillips (2014) Will RDoC hasten the decline of America's global leadership role in mental health?, *World Psychiatry*, 13, 40-41.

## Week 8: Mental Disorder and the Limits of Social Recognition

Mohammed Rashed

### *Reading*

- Rashed, M. A. (2018). *Madness and the Demand for Recognition: A Philosophical Inquiry into Identity and Mental Health Activism* (Chapter 7: Mad Identity I: Failed and Controversial Identities). Oxford University Press.
- Taylor, C. (1994). *The Politics of Recognition*. Princeton University Press.
- Radden, J. (2011). *On Delusion* (Chapter 5). Routledge.

## Week 9: Mental Disorder & Culture

Mohammed Rashed

### *Core reading*

- Summerfield, D. (2008). How scientifically valid is the knowledge base of Global Mental Health? *British Medical Journal* 336(7651): 992-994
- Littlewood, R. (1990). From categories to contexts: a decade of the "new cross-cultural psychiatry". *British Journal of Psychiatry* 156: 308-327
- Radden, J. (2003). Is This Dame Melancholy? Equating Today's Depression and Past Melancholia. *Philosophy, Psychiatry, and Psychology* 10(1):37-52

### *Further reading*

- Kleinman, A. (1987). Anthropology and psychiatry. *British Journal of Psychiatry* 151: 447-454
- Kirmayer, L. (2006). Beyond the 'New Cross-cultural Psychiatry': Cultural Biology, Discursive Psychology, and the Ironies of Globalisation. *Transcultural Psychiatry* 43(1): 126-144

## Week 10: Folk Psychiatry: The Case of Capgras Delusion

Norman Poole

### *Core Reading*

- Boyer P. (2011) Intuitive expectations and the detection of mental disorder: A cognitive background to folk-psychiatry, *Philosophical Psychology*, 24, 95-118, DOI: 10.1080/09515089.2010.529049
- Haslam H. (2003) Folk Psychiatry: Lay Thinking about Mental Disorder. *Social Research*, 70(2), 621- 644
- Capgras J, Reboul-Lachaux. (1994) L'illusion des 'sosies' dans un délire systématisé chronique. *History of Psychiatry (1923)*, 5, 119-33.

### *Further reading*

- Murphy D. (2014) Natural kinds in folk psychology and in psychiatry. In *Classifying Psychopathology: Mental Kinds and Natural Kinds*. (Eds. H. Kinciad & J.A. Sullivan), The MIT Press, pp. 105-22.

## Week 11: Mainstream Conceptualisations of Mental Disorder In the DSM And the ICD

Derek Bolton

### *Core reading*

- Spitzer R.L and Williams J B (1982). The definition and diagnosis of mental disorder. In WR Grove (ed.), *Deviance and mental illness*, pp. 15-31. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage.
- Bolton, D. (2008). What is Mental Disorder? An Essay in Philosophy, Science, and Values. Oxford, Oxford University Press. Sections 1.5 & 4.1

### *Further reading*

- Spitzer, R.L. & Endicott, I. (1978) Medical and mental disorder: proposed definition and criteria. In: *Critical issues in psychiatric diagnosis*. R.L.Spitzer & D.F. Klein, eds. New York, Raven Press: 15-40.
- Stein DJ, Phillips KA, Bolton D, Fulford KWM, Sadler J Z., Kendler KS. (2010) What is a Mental/Psychiatric Disorder? From DSM-IV to DSM-V. *Psychological Medicine*. 40, 1–7.