Culture and Psychiatry

A new series from the MIT Press

The MIT Series in Culture and Psychiatry aims to publish books at the intersection of culture, mental health and illness, and public policy. The series brings together scholars from multiple disciplines, including medical anthropology, medical sociology, history of medicine, medical humanities, cultural psychology, and cultural psychiatry. We want to showcase the diversity of approaches to understand the interplay among individual psychologies (broadly understood as ways of thinking, feeling, and behaving), ways of meaning making within social groups (i.e. culture), and the way this interplay informs and is informed by public policies. We are soliciting academically rigorous books for scholars and educated readers alike to shape policy conversations.

Each book must address a theoretical conception of culture, psychology/psychiatry, and how these conceptions play out in terms of practical public policies. We seek books that use an issue within mental health or illness as reflective of a greater societal concern about how we see ourselves, others, and ways of being. We want stories that teach us about changing notions of the self in relation to society with a goal toward transforming public policy.

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