

7AAN2003 The Concept of Mental Disorder

Syllabus – Academic year 2019/20 (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

Wednesdays 09.00–11.00, PHILOSOPHY BLDG 304

<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">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.2. Knowledge of the main positions in the philosophy of psychiatry relevant to the definition of mental disorder.3. Ability to assess and develop these positions4. Ability to exercise their powers of intellectual criticism by critically commenting upon the views discussed5. Ability to relate material from the philosophy of psychiatry to other branches of philosophy, such as philosophy of psychology or philosophy of medicine6. Ability to form philosophical views of their own which they are prepared to defend or amend in light of criticism.7. Ability to read closely and gain understanding of relevant texts.

Assessment

Formative Assessment 1 x 3000 max word essay

Essay due Monday 2 March 2020, by 16:00. Please send your essay in the first instance to Alexander Bird who will direct it to the appropriate lecturer for feedback.

Summative Assessment 1 x 4000 word essay

Essay due Wednesday 29 April 2020.

Consultation times

Alexander Bird at:

Tuesday 15.00–16.00 (21/01, 28/01, 04/02, 11/02 only)

Wednesday 12:00–13:00

and at other times by agreement.

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 readings

Week	Date	Topic	Teacher in 19–20
1	15 Jan	Is Mental Disorder Being Over-Diagnosed? 1960s Critiques to the Present	Norman Poole
2	22 Jan	Naturalistic Definitions of Mental Disorder	Alexander Bird
3	29 Jan	Psychiatric Kinds and Looping Effects	Alexander Bird
4	5 Feb	Mental Health Activism and Challenges to the Mental Disorder Label	Mohammed Rashed
5	12 Feb	Mental Disorder & Creativity	Alexander Bird
6	19 Feb	<i>reading week</i>	
7	26 Feb	Mental Disorder and the Limits of Social Recognition	Mohammed Rashed
8	4 Mar	Are Mental Disorders Brain Disorders?	Derek Bolton
9	11 Mar	Mental Disorder & Culture	Mohammed Rashed
10	18 Mar	Mainstream Conceptualisations of Mental Disorder in the DSM And the ICD	Derek Bolton
11	25 Mar	Folk Psychiatry: The Case of Capgras Delusion	Norman Poole

Week 1: 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*.
- Sedgewick, 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 2: Naturalist Definitions Of Mental Disorder

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.
- 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

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

Core reading

- Jamison, Kay Redfield (1995) Manic-Depressive Illness and Creativity *Scientific American*
- Sass, Louis A. (2000) Schizophrenia, Modernism, and the “Creative Imagination”: On Creativity and Psychopathology *Creativity Research Journal*.
- Johnson, Sheri L. *et al.* (2012) Creativity and bipolar disorder: Touched by fire or burning with questions? *Clinical Psychology Review*.

Further reading

- Jamison, K. R. (1993) *Touched with fire: Manic-depressive illness and the artistic temperament*. New York: Simon and Schuster.
- Nettle, Daniel (2000) *Strong Imagination* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Week 6: Reading week

Week 7: 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 8: 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 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.