

revision of psychiatric classification in general. The book comprises 26 chapters by mostly American contributors and is divided into three parts. The first focuses on gender and examines differences in susceptibility, phenomenology, prognosis and the effects of both biological and sociocultural variables on the presentation of psychiatric disorders in women and men. Arguments for and against the inclusion of separate diagnostic categories for illnesses presenting in women and men are considered. The second section, on early childhood, presents a compelling case for an extensive overhaul of the way psychiatric illnesses in children are currently defined and diagnosed. It recommends a far greater emphasis on developmental considerations, using disorders of mood, anxiety, attachment, feeding and post-traumatic stress disorder as examples. The final section on older people highlights the importance of organic brain pathology in the genesis of a variety of psychiatric conditions, most notably depression, and exposes the inadequacies of current diagnostic systems' abilities to accommodate the impact of physical illness on psychopathology in this population.

Throughout the book the various authors lay emphasis on the changing nature of psychiatric classification and its tendency to become more aetiopathologically, rather than descriptively, based, though there is a pragmatic acceptance that given the imminence of DSM-V's publication it will still be largely categorical in nature, like its predecessors. This is not to say that descriptive psychopathology has had its day. Far from it. For, as one author points out, the precise elucidation of phenotype becomes even more important as the ability to determine aetiology becomes more accurate.

This book will be of value both to specialists in the fields of women's mental health, child psychiatry and old age psychiatry, for whom it provides a useful summary of current research, and to non-specialists who are interested in psychiatric classification and the direction in which it is heading. On the evidence of this book, this direction seems to be an encouraging one.

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to detect patterns of relationships and functioning. There are many lively illustrations of this in the book, but the most memorable is the genogram depicting patterns of conservatism and wildness in the British Royal Family.

It isn't only royalty who are used to illustrate key principles. In parts, this book is like a *Who's Who* of namedropper families. Theories and practical application are explained with colourful genograms of the great, the good and those gossiped about – the rich family dynamics of the Brontës, the Jungs, the Eriksons and the Fondas are offered as scaffolding for learning. Through the genograms of Mia Farrow, Bill Clinton and Louis Armstrong, McGoldrick and co-authors track family patterns through space and time. It is compelling reading and the text is peppered with pertinent questions to ask families and practical therapeutic skills.

Since the first edition was published in 1985, systemic thinking has evolved, as has family life and composition. The text has been updated for the 21st century. Readers accustomed to McGoldrick's authority, insight and compassion will not be disappointed. The inside front cover has familiar looking symbols for male and female, but there are also those less familiar for pets, immigration, secret affairs and transgender. Other societal structures including socio-economic status, sexual orientation, ethnicity and spirituality are given as much thought as kinship relationships.

Genograms are predominantly used by family therapists; however, in this book McGoldrick and colleagues do much to broaden their appeal. General adult psychiatrists will be interested in the practical applications of community genograms. Similarly, genograms mapping relationships with work colleagues have broad appeal, from junior doctors struggling to manage inevitable multidisciplinary rivalries and tensions to managers introducing organisational change.

Frida Kahlo painted her own family genogram and the reproduction in these pages means this book would not be out of place on your coffee table. There are few scholarly books that entertain, delight and educate in equal measures. This is one of them.

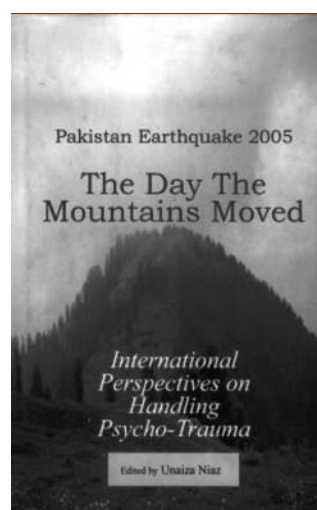
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### Genograms: Assessment and Intervention (3rd edn)

By Monica McGoldrick, Randy Gerson & Sueili Petry. Norton Professional Books. 2008. 400pp. US\$27.00 (pb). ISBN: 9780393705096



### Pakistan Earthquake 2005. The Day The Mountains Moved: International Perspectives on Handling Psycho-Trauma

Edited by Unaiza Niaz. Sama. 2007. 275pp. US\$12.00 (hb). ISBN: 9698784527

Monica McGoldrick, godmother of genograms, has triumphed again with this third edition of her classic text. Genograms are simple, pictorial representations of relationships and networks used to elicit information and track stressors and resources. Perhaps their most effective application, however, is being able

On 8 October 2005 the mountains moved in northern Pakistan and Kashmir, to cause human tragedy unparalleled in the history