

References

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DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

Treatment Matching in Alcoholism, edited by Thomas E Babor and Frances K. Del Boca. New York, Cambridge University Press, 2003, 275 pp., \$80.00.

This book gives a detailed explanation of the findings of Project MATCH. This undertaking was a large study that evaluated whether the treatment of alcoholism could be improved by pairing different kinds of treatment with different types of alcoholics. This appears to be the largest study of this kind yet conducted, involving 1,726 subjects from numerous locations. The rationale, methodology, and results are well presented. This small volume is very concise and maintains the standards expected in a research-based text. The project was primarily derived from research funded by the National Institute of Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse. It is good to know what happens to tax dollars, and in this case they appear to have been well spent.

Alcoholism is an extremely serious public health problem. The morbidity and mortality attributed to this illness involve millions of lives and billions of dollars each year. The comorbidity associated with this disease is pervasive and long lasting. The history of research on this topic is commendable but spotted by poor controls and a lack of objective measures. The MATCH research makes an important contribution to our understanding of treatment outcomes. It takes a major step toward accountable operational methods for examining our treatments.

This book gives detailed information about areas of success and the matching of therapeutic modalities. The degree of detail cannot be understated. The chapters on sampling, methodology, and analysis are well described. Issues regarding matching and measurement are clearly stated and avoid unnecessary technical jargon. Improvement of alcoholism was related to lower rates of depression and improved general health. This has been demonstrated before but is worth mentioning because of the magnitude of the burden that alcohol places on society.

Although individual results may vary from treatment to treatment, this variation is reduced to an almost anecdotal level when multisite examination of variables is conducted. Perhaps a major value of this publication is in the demonstration of the broad effect when many subjects and variables are examined. Indeed, great care has obviously been taken to preserve the integrity of data collection and analysis in this study. By doing so, the researchers have eliminated many design problems and peculiar results seen in smaller or less rigorous studies.

The volume continues with a fine summary section. The results provide interesting insights. The editors indicate that perhaps personal motivation is very powerful in predicting treatment. The degree of participation in Alcoholics Anonymous is demonstrated to have a strong positive effect on outcome. Things like social support and personal effort seem to be vital to successful abstinence. It is good to see a well-developed scientific approach to alcoholism treatment. Although many books have been written on this topic, few have the scientific rigor to satisfy practitioners and researchers alike. The research presented in this book represents first-class evidence-based methodology and analysis. I highly recommend it.

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Ethnicity and Substance Abuse: Prevention and Intervention, by Grace Xueqin Ma, Ph.D., and George Henderson, Ph.D. Springfield, Ill., Charles C Thomas, 2002, 333 pp., \$75.95; \$53.95 (paper).

This volume has 28 contributors, including four physicians, none of whom is a psychiatrist. The two Ph.D.s named on the cover are not listed as editors. They wrote the first and last chapters together and participated in the writing of several others. Dr. Ma is an associate professor at Temple University and is a distinguished authority on transcultural health issues. Dr. Henderson is a professor at the University of Oklahoma with an international reputation in the fields of substance abuse in minority groups, transcultural health care, and cross-cultural counseling.

The first section is devoted to concepts of addiction, cross-cultural communication, and social ecology. The addiction concepts are familiar ones, and the essence of the chapter on cross-cultural communication is that it is important for care providers to understand the culture of their designated patients. The phrase "social ecology" refers to the many levels at which we must intervene in a logical attempt to abate substance abuse and chemical dependency. We must consider the individual, the interpersonal, the family, organizations in the community, and the community itself. These ideas are not specific to ethnic minorities. The book as a whole is as much about the consequences of poverty relating to drug abuse as it is about the role that minority status plays.

The focus of the book is on describing the experiences that the authors and other workers had while working with and studying substance abuse in different ethnic groups. They include substantial reviews of the relevant literature. The groups that they cover are African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans. The authors repeatedly stress the need to take into account the cultural norms of any culture in which helping professionals intervene.

I believe that this work will be of interest to workers in any of the disciplines involved in treating chemical dependency. Although the concepts are basic to psychiatry, there is considerable information presented here, by and large in the form of data and statistics on the prevalence of the different forms of abuse in the several ethnic populations. For example, one chapter estimates that the incidence of fetal alcohol syndrome in Native Americans is five or six times that in the general population (p. 285). Another chapter reports on treating opium-smoking problems among the Mien people who have immigrated to Oakland, Calif., from Laos. In their mountainous home in Laos, they cultivated the opium poppy and smoked it at all ages for a variety of symptoms. There was no stigma attached to its use in their homeland (p. 156). The chapter titled "Hispanic Heroin Users: Up Close and Personal" reads like an anthropological field study. Its author, an anthropologist, became acquainted with homeless individuals and prostitutes in a large city's slums in order to write about the faces of heroin addiction in that setting.

There is biographical information on all the contributors. They are a diverse group educationally and geographically. Two of the 15 chapters are devoted to smoking cessation efforts. Virtually every chapter ends with a call for further research.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Principles of Experimental Psychopathology: Essays in Honor of Brendan A. Maher, edited by Mark F. Lenzenweger, Ph.D., and Jill M. Hooley, D.Phil. Washington, D.C., American Psychological Association, 2003, 472 pp., \$49.95.

This book examines, in a broadly defined way, the work of Brendan A. Maher, Ph.D., the Edward C. Henderson Professor of the Psychology of Personality, Department of Psychology, Harvard University. For those unfamiliar with Dr. Maher's work, he is a primary architect of experimental psychopathology, a leading scholar in schizophrenia research, a teacher and mentor of many, and an academic statesman-at-large. The book is a Festschrift, referring directly to Brendan Maher's methodological contributions to the study of mental illness and alluding to his landmark book on the topic (1), supported in part by the American Psychological Association Science Conference and the Decade of the Brain series.

The book is composed of chapters written by prominent scholars and researchers who have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Maher as colleagues, collaborators, and former students, as well as a chapter by Dr. Maher himself. Early on in his career, Dr. Maher established that, despite the challenges encountered in working in the field of psychopathology, methodological concerns applied to this field were not inherently different from the principles already worked out in the experimental laboratory. By continuing to focus on the questions of how one conducts a particular study and how to measure the phenomenon of interest, empirical study of issues in experimental psychopathology has become more method-

ologically rigorous and scientifically sound. The contributing authors not only explain how Dr. Maher's work and ideas have contributed to the development of their own research efforts but also describe the broader impact he has had on those who have had the privilege of knowing him personally.

The volume is divided into five parts. The first part is written by Dr. Maher himself and contains a discussion of his views on delusional thought and the methodological approach he has taken to study these beliefs. Many of his methodological principles are described; these lay the groundwork for the other parts of the book. In the second section, a variety of scholars who have worked with Dr. Maher describe their work in schizophrenia. Topics include genetics (Gottesman and Reilly), motor dysfunction (Manschreck), neuromotor abnormalities (Dworkin et al.), spatial working memory deficits (Park and Lee), and models of vocational support (Blyler) in the emergence and development of schizophrenia.

Part 3 includes chapters with distinct methodological foci, with an emphasis on the methodology of interest within the context of schizophrenia research. These include chapters on the study of neuropsychological function (Strauss and Summerfelt), signal-detection-based assessment of somatosensory dysfunction (Lenzenweger et al.), and pain insensitivity (Hooley and Chung). Part 4 describes methodological and technological advances in the study of psychopathology, including reductivism (Holzman), event-related brain potentials (Deldin et al.), magnetic resonance methods (Yurgelun-Todd and Gruber), and functional neuroimaging of working memory (Manoach). Part 5 concludes with three chapters related to temperament (one by Kagan and one by Fowles) and cognition (McNally) in experimental psychopathology and developmental psychological sciences.

In the introduction, the editors state,

Thirty-five years ago, Maher urged psychopathologists to bring psychopathology into the laboratory with the hope that the power of experimental methods...might help researchers resolve more clearly a variety of fundamental processes in the study of mental illness. In so doing, his vision helped transform the manner in which psychopathology research was carried out. It continues to implicitly guide the manner in which experimental psychopathology research is conducted, regardless of one's specific focus. We believe that the chapters in this volume celebrate the spirit and implementation of that seminal vision. (p. 6)

They do! In addition, they celebrate the spirit and influence of a wonderful man, with warm tributes and charming and amusing anecdotes related to both professional and personal development of those with whom he has come in contact. The editors should be very proud—this Festschrift accomplishes its goal with a perfect blend of autobiography, science, and real-world implications.

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