

Introduction to Forensic Psychology: Research and Application

By Curt R. Bartol and Anne M. Bartol. Second edition. Los Angeles: Sage Publications, 2008. 555 pp. \$79.95.

In the preface to their book, Curt R. and Anne M. Bartol describe it as “designed to be a core text in courses in forensic psychology, including those enrolling criminal justice majors and social work majors.” While the book is well written, easy to read, and well referenced, it focuses more on providing an overview of forensic psychology, with emphasis on the professional applications of this field of knowledge. The result is a book that is broad in scope but lacking in sufficient depth and detail to be useful to most practicing forensic psychiatrists.

The book is divided into six major sections, including Introduction to Forensic Psychology, Police and Investigative Psychology, Psychology and the Courts, Criminal Psychology, Victimology and Victim Services, and Correctional Psychology, which includes juvenile corrections. The book includes a glossary of terms used throughout the text, a list of cases cited, an extensive reference list, and an index. Words listed in the glossary are in boldface type where they appear in the text. Chapters are extensively referenced throughout the book, and this attention to primary sources is one of the greatest strengths of the text. The logical organization of the material, coupled with extensive referencing, make this text ideal for finding primary sources for a wide range of topics. The reference list at the back of the book extends over 37 pages.

The authors’ writing style makes the content easy to digest, with clear topic headings that flow in a logical and coherent manner throughout the chapters. The text has small vignettes sprinkled throughout, but many are too short to do more than introduce a topic for consideration by the reader (e.g., “Help for the Homeless with Mental Illness” covers two-thirds of a page and cites a single program from Marin County, California).

While many of the topics lack depth in deference to the large volume of material being reviewed, there are some sections where the material is both extensive

and well organized, making it easily accessible. The chapter on psychology of sexual assault is an excellent overview of typologies of men who rape, including a detailed summary of the Massachusetts Treatment Center Rapist Typology subtypes and the Groth Rapist Typology system. The authors also describe how these assessment systems may be applied to classify pedophilic offenders. Despite these strengths, the authors devote fewer than three pages to assessment and treatment of juvenile sex offenders. The discussion is limited to using phallometry to assess deviant sexual arousal, and mention of the Abel Assessment for Sexual Interest is completely omitted.

This book admirably fulfills its described role as the core textbook for undergraduates or graduate students who seek broad exposure to the research regarding and the applicability to the field of forensic psychology. For most practicing forensic psychiatrists, however, it lacks the depth within most of the topics to make it particularly useful as a reference text. Similarly, most forensic psychiatry fellows are likely to find that they are looking to the primary sources cited instead of relying on the text alone, although there are some pearls within its pages.

Stewart S. Newman, MD
Beaverton, OR

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Sexual Boundary Violations: Therapeutic, Supervisory, and Academic Contexts

By Andrea Celenza. New York: Jason Aronson, 2007. 296 pp. \$49.95.

This thoughtful book addresses sexual boundary violations in the helping professions and clergy. The material is based on the author’s extensive consultative and treatment experience, and reflections thereon. Unlike many such discussions, the book contains extended explorations of the psychology of the perpetrators, not only of the victims. Offenders, as the author notes, have suffered from avoidance on the basis of political correctness: “only victims have a psychology, not perpetrators.”

The book is divided into four sections plus a foreword by Gary Schoener, MEd, an introduction, appendices, and a short index. Part One describes the nature and scope of the problem; Part Two examines reporting, fallout, and recovery; Part Three addresses rehabilitation; and Part Four reviews prevention. As a group, the appendices are labeled Empirical Research: Appendix A is titled "Personal and Interpersonal Characteristics of Transgressors"; and Appendix B describes "A Rorschach Investigation," involving testing of sexual boundary transgressors.

At the outset, the author identifies several goals for this work: to dispel myths, to acknowledge the potential universality of loving gone awry, to move away from the excessively punitive view toward perpetrators on the basis of "this couldn't happen to me," to explore the possibilities for rehabilitation of the largest group of perpetrators (nonpsychopathic male therapists in crisis), and to limn the steps needed to promote openness and safety in the therapeutic arena.

The primarily empirical chapters in Part One provide a sweeping and detailed review of the relevant literature on the topic from a variety of viewpoints. This review coalesces in a composite case study of a typical violation by a middle-aged male therapist in a state of personal isolation who becomes involved with a female patient. An extensive description of his treatment is detailed in a later chapter. Other content includes a highly useful discussion of the precursors to misconduct and the facilitating conditions and personality dynamics in the therapist and patient. Subsequent chapters provide sophisticated analyses of the multiple factors in the patient and therapist that lead to misconduct, including a discussion of supervisor-supervisee relationships and misconduct by clergy. These later chapters are the most valuable in providing clinical insights.

Part Two addresses conflicts about reporting offenses, including institutional responses and collateral damage to the families of perpetrators, victims, and the professional groups to which abusers belong. Here, as elsewhere, the central strength of Celenza's approach is her persistent (and very welcome) refusal to adopt a simplistic view of what is inescapably a complex subject, with multiple intersecting dynamics, as well as internal and external forces acting on the perpetrators and victims.

Part Three addresses what is arguably the essence of this book: the rehabilitation (when possible) of

perpetrators. The author explores several topics, including therapy and monitoring or supervision of the transgressor (the latter with sample reports), prevention, reasonable therapeutic responsivity, countertransference factors, and the "Boundary Violations Vulnerability Index." The index is an assessment instrument (at present, not a validated questionnaire) designed by the author for practitioners to use to determine their own vulnerability.

This is a very valuable book for therapists of all disciplines, as well as forensic mental health professionals. Its greatest strength is the author's extremely refreshing and unusual openness to multiple viewpoints about the significance of the diverse attitudes and actions, motivations, dynamic forces, and proclivities of all players in the drama. Moreover, few works in this field pay as close attention to the psychology of perpetrators in the service of identifying the rehabilitatable ones and returning them to safe practice. This book is highly recommended.

Thomas G. Gutheil, MD
Brookline, MA

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Psychiatry in Prisons: A Comprehensive Handbook

By Simon Wilson and Ian Cumming. Philadelphia and London: Jessica Kingsley, 2010. 318 pp. \$55.95 (paperback).

Handbook of Correctional Mental Health

Charles Scott (editor). Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Publishing, 2010. 626 pp. \$82.00 (paperback).

Manual of Forms and Guidelines for Correctional Mental Health

Amanda Ruiz, Joel Dvoskin, Charles Scott, Jeffrey Metzner (editors). Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Publishing, 2010. 256 pp. \$115.00.

Textbooks on correctional mental health were published on both sides of the Atlantic in 2010.