

A notable omission was a more detailed discussion of the actual interview process itself. It might have been helpful to introduce the protocols, then explain the interview tactics in conjunction with the protocols to help build the foundation for conducting an interview. Instead, a description of the protocols and discussion about the characteristics that make for high-quality protocols did not occur until Chapter 13, although one author referenced one of the protocols in an earlier chapter without significant detail. By discussing the research supporting particular interview techniques, independent of the protocols themselves, the book did not avail itself of a stylistic opportunity that could have attracted more readers.

The structure of information varies within each chapter, which is expected to some degree, given that each chapter was written by a different contributing author. The more constructive chapters allowed for a natural flow of information by separating the text-appropriate sections and using more basic language for ease of understanding. Also, the subject matter of the chapter was relevant and interconnected with the book's purpose. Less constructive chapters abandoned the topic of the chapter to supply detailed information about other elements of the forensic interview that were covered in another chapter. Overall, the content could have been more optimally organized.

The book is suitable for all psychiatrists involved in interviewing child victims of sexual abuse, but particularly for child and adolescent and forensic psychiatrists. It is a sufficient resource to enhance professional education and to reference for further research. However, these basic details are not covered and someone with minimal expertise in this arena may need additional background information for developing rudimentary child forensic interview skills before picking up this book.

Overall, the content of the book provides a significant body of research and historical data that could be of value for everyone in the field. The text was not focused primarily on the forensic interview administration, but it is more concentrated on the importance of a credible interview, the effects of the environment and the child's development on the report, and the weight of the interview on judicial outcomes. By providing a broad base of material, the authors portray the bigger picture, outlining the importance of every interaction and every professional involved.

## Reference

1. FindLaw's Missouri Court of Appeals Case and Opinions. Toronto: Thomson Reuters, Findlaw Company, 2018. Available at: [caselaw.findlaw.com/mo-court-of-appeals/1755221.html](http://caselaw.findlaw.com/mo-court-of-appeals/1755221.html). Accessed November 12, 2017

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## Mental Health in the War on Terror: Culture, Science, and Statecraft

By Neil Krishan Aggarwal, New York: Columbia University Press, 2015. 214 pp. Hard cover \$50.00.

Terroristic events no doubt leave indelible scars on the psyche of the victims and can create societal backlash toward individuals or groups of people perceived to be the source of the terror. On the one hand, society has to deal with the problem of providing safety for its citizens; on the other hand, without understanding the cultures involved, reflex backlash could also affect individuals from similar subcultures. Using medicine or psychiatry as a vehicle for this backlash could be detrimental to the integrity of the profession. For that reason, books that critically look into societal reactions to terroristic events could be insightful. Such work should strive to be balanced while educating us, when intense fear creates huge biases that influence our diagnoses and delivery of treatment. It also cautions us against pathologic politicization of our noble profession.

Dr. Neil Aggarwal's ethnic background, medical training, and extensive work in cultural psychiatry uniquely qualifies him for research in this area. The book is masterful in using specific examples to portray various aspects of biases. Chapter 1 deals with mental health, culture, and power in the war on terror. It posits philosophical underpinnings of the battle between the clinician and the patient during evaluations. Every aspect of what we do is subject to philosophical interpretations that could influence decision-making, exemplified by referencing Michel Foucault's view of an inpatient unit as a religious domain without religion and a domain of pure

morality. Medicine's striving toward equitable distribution of scarce resources was particularly explored as was the role that culture, social truths, and social resistance play in these determinations.

Chapter 2 covers bioethics and conduct of mental health professionals in the war on terror. Dr. Aggarwal walks us through case vignettes to portray the dilemmas faced by the clinician in the context of the pressure being exerted by the employing organization. He highlights how an evaluator may get pulled in multiple ethics-related directions, even when his professional associations have been unable to issue position statements. Readers would be enriched by Aggarwal's exploration of Foucauldian discourse analysis and bioethical scholarship.

Chapter 3 dissects the meanings of symptoms and services for Guantanamo detainees. The use of Guantanamo Bay to avert constitutional conflict has aroused ethics-based and legal debates among constitutional scholars. Aggarwal homes in on this dilemma by pointing out that even President Obama, who campaigned for closing the facility and even mentioned it in his acceptance of the Nobel Peace prize, yet was unable to close it throughout his eight years in office. Aggarwal's exploration of the ethics and cultural basis of these decisions helps educate readers on how complex these situations usually are and that there are no straightforward answers.

Chapter 4 sheds light on how Arabs and Muslims are depicted in psychodynamic scholarship. The concept of "Muslim mind" and "Orientalism" are explored, including how we inadvertently peculiarize Arabs and Muslims based on our ingrained perception of cultural differences between East and West. This cultural conditioning<sup>1</sup> creates stereotypes and pathological schema of alien groups and influences our decision-making. In Chapter 5, Aggarwal uses Alison Howell's concept of securitization of medicine and medicalization of security concerns to analyze the mental health construction and psychopathology of suicide bombing.

This book has palpable flaws. Throughout the text, Aggarwal allows his sentiments to taint his impressive discourse analyses. In the preface, he refers to how psychiatrists conjecture about the irrational motivation of suicide bombers, the wish of the state to punish undesirable populations, and the political use of psychiatry. There is minimal analysis of the origin and credibility of the fear that prompts this negative backlash from the lens of the affected society. Even

though case vignettes are used to buttress the dilemmas faced by clinicians, readers are unable to identify how such vignette selections were made and how this selection process could bias the overall narrative.

Even scholars like Elisha Davar (p 90) and Fakhry Davids (p 91) who balanced their arguments and warned against stereotyping Islam, were accused by the author of reproducing East–West dichotomy and fostering divisions. Aggarwal's proposal (p 132) for a Guantanamo court to use a cleric from the Al-Qaeda Organization in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) to serve as an expert witness is emotive and controversial. Stating that the United States government markets patriotism by valorizing economic growth (p 15) is not constructive. Wanting someone to be diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder because the diagnosis will improve his life (p 19) should not be the role of a forensic evaluator. In these situations, Aggarwal does not consider the difficulty in wearing two hats (as a physician and as an objective evaluator), but rather portrays medical system as "agents of social control through our presumed objectivity" (p 20). Condemnation of how Muslims and Arabs are depicted is regarded as noble, yet prejudicial motives are ascribed to scholars and mental health practitioners.

Overall, this is a powerful book that will challenge our assumptions and facilitate emotive debates on culture, medicine, and psychiatry. It is recommended reading for lawyers and forensic clinicians and nonclinicians alike.

## Reference

1. Oglesby K, Miller T, Flores C, *et al*: Cultural Conditioning. Available at: <https://prezi.com/-oqgkett5c5a/cultural-conditioning/>. Accessed October 12 2017

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## Principles and Practice of Forensic Psychiatry

Edited by Richard Rosner, MD, and Charles L. Scott, MD, Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, 2017. 1066 pp. \$295.00

The long-awaited third edition of *Principles and Practice of Forensic Psychiatry* is finally here. For