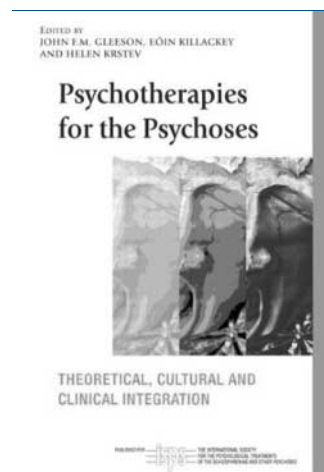


Such omissions are perhaps legitimately beyond the scope of this timely, well-presented and valuable book, every chapter of which provides illuminating insights and evidence of the range and depth of the AAI's multiple uses. It should be of considerable interest to clinicians and practitioners from all disciplines, as well as to researchers and students.

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Psychotherapies for the Psychoses. Theoretical, Cultural and Clinical Integration

Edited by John F. M. Gleeson, Eoin Killackey & Helen Krstev. Routledge. 2008. 288pp. £19.99 (pb). ISBN: 9780415411929

This book is the latest in a series published by the International Society for the Psychological Treatments of the Schizophrenias and Other Psychoses under the overall editorship of Brian Martindale. It arose from their 14th conference held in Melbourne, Australia, where the debate had been on whether biological and psychological interventions could be integrated in the treatment of psychoses.

The editors explain how in the 1990s psychosocial interventions had become afterthoughts to antipsychotic medication as indicated by a survey in Australia in 2000 revealing that less than 40% of individuals with psychotic disorders had received any form of counselling or psychotherapy within the past year. An aim of the book was to redress this imbalance.

The intentions of the chapters is not only to provide evidence of the effectiveness of psychological interventions, but also to promulgate their application in routine care. A wide range of topics is covered and the authorship is truly international with contributors from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA, Germany, UK, Norway and India.

The book represents a broad church with contributions from the cognitive-behavioural perspective, a more narrative approach and a psychodynamic approach. Topics covered include integration models between biological and psychological approaches, rehabilitation, family therapy, group therapy, psychosocial interventions in clinical practice, the treatment alliance in bipolar disorder, an integrated programme for first-episode schizophrenia and developing psychotherapy in the pre-psychotic phase. There is also a chapter devoted to the contentious question of whether the individual's personal experience at a spiritual level should replace diagnosis as the primary issue.

Particularly interesting were two chapters considering the importance of the cultural element when evaluating psychosis. These related to India and the Maoris in New Zealand, where

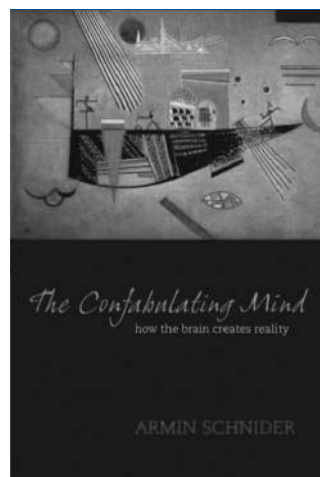
we were treated to a detailed description of their cultural beliefs, their language and, with the latter, the need to incorporate Maori-speakers in evaluating presenting psychotic states.

While the book covers research data from many countries, it does not lose contact with its applications for clinical practice. This is particularly well illustrated in the area of family interactions, where relatively brief interventions may have telling effects in the prevention of further relapses.

In summary, this book advocates the integration of psychological approaches into the treatment of psychoses. It is an important book to be strongly recommended both for trainees, to familiarise themselves with the literature, and for consultants in considering how to effect their integration within their current approach to psychosis.

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The Confabulating Mind: How The Brain Creates Reality

By Armin Schneider. Oxford University Press. 2008. 344pp. £29.95 (hb). ISBN: 9780199206759

How do we know our memories are real? Which brain mechanisms allow us to distinguish between dreams, thoughts and the recollection of past experiences? These are the kind of questions addressed by Armin Schneider in *The Confabulating Mind*. To answer them he draws upon his unique expertise on the striking neuropsychological phenomenon of confabulation, the tendency of some individuals with a brain damage to unintentionally produce false or distorted memories. The result is an authoritative and comprehensive book on confabulation that will no doubt make experts wonder how the field has progressed thus far without it. For psychologists, psychiatrists, neurologists and neuroscientists interested in memory, *The Confabulating Mind* provides an in-depth analysis of all facets of the phenomenon, including engaging clinical descriptions of patients, excellent neuroanatomical specification, rich behavioural varieties, theoretical considerations and findings from functional imaging. For scholars working on confabulation, this book not only contextualises and sets out in unprecedented detail the views of one of their most successful colleagues, but provides the first contemporary, in-depth review of the relevant early German and French literature.

What impresses most about this book is how each aspect of the complex syndrome of confabulation is dealt with in separate, clearly delineated chapters that end up bringing to life the full

psychological and neurological picture of the syndrome without glossing over any of its facets. An illustrative case vignette is given at the outset and referred to frequently throughout the book. The fascinating chapter on the history of confabulation is followed by a rich and clear delineation of its subtypes and most importantly, a lengthy chapter that describes the different characteristics of amnesia and confabulation with different aetiologies. This syndrome-based approach is invaluable to clinicians and provides a refreshing alternative to the usual narrow, symptom-based view of confabulation in scientific journals. Lacking theoretical depth, but not clarity or precision, the ensuing chapters present concomitant disorders, false memories in the healthy population and the psychological models previously proposed to explain confabulation. The book concludes with two chapters brilliantly reviewing the author's pioneering work on confabulation and considering the more general implications of this work.

What impresses less about this book is how little Schnider has allowed his in-depth analysis of the literature to enrich his views on confabulation, particularly as regards the psychology of the syndrome. For example, his well-intended and pertinent attempt to separate between specific confabulation subtypes throughout the book carries the empirical weight of his previous research but lacks any theoretical considerations. Overall, however, this book is a testimony to the author's unparalleled contribution to the study of confabulation. Any library priding itself on promoting the neuropsychology of memory should soon find shelf space for a copy.

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