


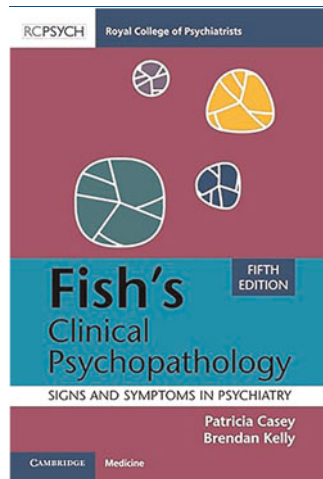
lunatic asylum case records held in the Barbados National Archive. A re-examination of these material impressions of the past acknowledges the colonial gaze through which patients were described, but also provides a new way of seeing patients and their problems, beyond the hermeneutic trouble entailed by the passage of time.

A chapter about Bombay's lunatic asylums around the turn of the twentieth century readily relates to this one, but other works describing topics as far reaching as the remodelling of the Sigmund Freud Museum in Vienna and the nostalgia experienced by staff in the wake of an American psychiatric hospital ensure a significant breadth of content. The book ends with a devastatingly honest reflective essay by Allan Beveridge that focuses sharply upon his experience of psychiatric training in Edinburgh in the 1980s. He shares his personal sense of excitement upon embarking upon his career that gives way to unease as he faces the reality of clinical practice, and the discombobulating effect of competing explanations and opposing views that continue to persist, to a greater or lesser extent, to this day.

The book grasps onto the Derridean idea that there is an ever-transforming inheritance of the past in light of changing contexts of the future, and that the key to history lies in how it is remembered. Through an exploration of remembrance, this work generates novel insights, which allow us to recast how we understand previous insights into psychiatry's past. This thought-provoking essay collection will generate enthusiasm for new ways of considering the past and reframing the present through troubling our interpretation of what has been written before. It is certainly worth reading to generate reflections on what the legacy of our own work may be.

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### Fish's Clinical Psychopathology: Signs and Symptoms in Psychiatry (5th edn)

By Patricia Casey and Brendan Kelly, Royal College of Psychiatrists/  
Cambridge University Press. 2024.  
23.99 (pb). 146 pp. ISBN 978-1009372695


I was recently in a meeting where, as I had encountered several times, the professionals ended up leading the discussion on issues such as populations and politics. At this stage the carers' representative brought the meeting back from the world of abstractions by stating that what patients and carers expected from psychiatrists was to show what unique skills and knowledge they brought to help patients with their difficulties. Those wise words stayed with me. One of the skills unique to psychiatry is psychopathology, especially when it is rooted in phenomenology. When I was a trainee, psychopathology was an inseparable part of our training and at

every ward round there was a detailed discussion on the topic. Unfortunately with the advent of what I call *assembly line psychiatry*, psychopathology has been ignored. It pains me to see that our Royal College has not been as active as it should be in promoting the importance of psychopathology in training. I remember at some point it was not even seen as a necessary part of training.

Given that context, one has to admire the efforts of Casey and Kelly in updating the latest edition of Fish's clinical psychopathology. The original book, written by Frank Fish in 1967 and updated by Max Hamilton in 1974, was one of the great accomplishments in the field of psychopathology. Fish, being an erudite psychopathologist and writer as well as a multilingual who had read several psychopathology texts in different languages, managed to fit complex philosophical issues in a small volume. Updating his work is a monumental task that I am glad to say has been accomplished by Casey and Kelly.

The format of the book follows the previous editions. It is a credit that they include philosophical dilemmas at the core of psychopathology in this volume. There is an update on classifications, including ICD-11.<sup>1</sup> Given the progresses in psychiatry, it is difficult to keep up to date without a corresponding increase in volume, and to keep the book the same length something invariably has to give; that is why the book seems somewhat thin on some subjects, for example, philosophy and phenomenology. Nevertheless, that does not take anything away from the sterling job accomplished by Casey and Kelly. There are case vignettes that can help the reader understand the phenomena better. There is a small section at the end of the chapters on how to ask questions and elicit symptoms, helpful for people new to psychopathology. In the chapter on disorders of thought, the section 'Disorders of tempo and continuity of thought' was very informative. I also liked the discussion on theories of delusions. The chapter on personality disorders is dominated by the DSM-5 classification.<sup>2</sup> It is, however, positive that there is a discussion on changes in ICD-11 and the differences between the two classifications. I would have preferred a longer discussion on disorders of self, but given the length of the book it was understandable that not every topic could be discussed at length. The book has a long list of references that an enthusiastic reader could explore further. I also commend the way Casey and Kelly managed to make the information about motor disorders accessible. The way that chapter is structured makes it easy to read and remember.

Several years ago, I was present when someone, who was not particularly complimentary of psychiatry, stated that in the future the main work will be done by psychologists, occupational therapists and nurses, with some help by general practitioners in doing the prescribing, rendering psychiatry useless. I think one reason that scenario would not work is that psychiatrists have the expertise in psychopathology, which makes them in a unique position to help patients. Unfortunately, with the recent neglect of psychopathology by professional governing bodies, that scenario becomes more likely to occur, which would lead to patients missing an important aspect of their care. This makes the effort of Casey and Kelly more admirable. I highly recommend the book for psychiatrists as the beginning of an enlightening journey in the field of psychopathology.

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## References

- 1 **ICD-11:** World Health Organization. *The ICD-11 International Classification of Diseases for Mortality and Morbidity Statistics, Eleventh Revision*. WHO, 2022.
- 2 **DSM-5:** American Psychiatric Association. *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (5th edn)*. APA, 2013.