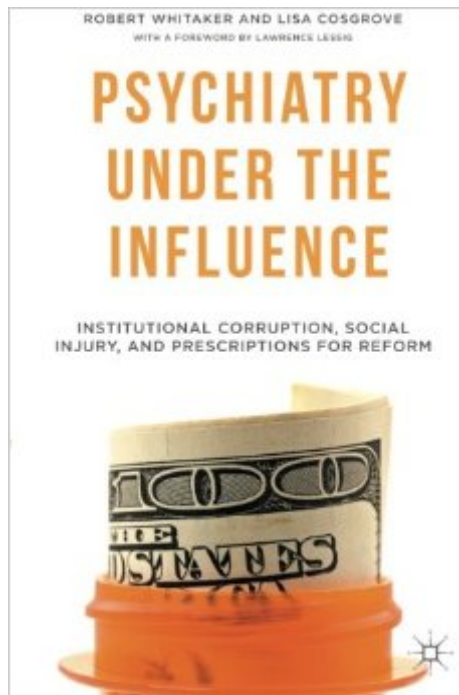


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Psychiatry Under The Influence: Institutional Corruption, Social Injury, And Prescriptions For Reform



Synopsis

Psychiatry Under the Influence investigates the actions and practices of the American Psychiatric Association and academic psychiatry in the United States, and presents it as a case study of institutional corruption.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Whittaker and Cosgrove add an important dimension to the ongoing crisis of public credibility (or more aptly, INcredibility) in which the profession of psychiatry now finds itself. They chronicle not only 35 years of failures by the American Psychiatric Association in its duty of care to the public, but also the processes by which otherwise good people can find themselves co-opted and influenced to cooperate in corrupt practices. The practices have been revealed not only in this book but in many others. As the authors note ironically in a quote from other sources, "if you torture the data for long enough, it can be made to say anything." And as we see demonstrated widely, this is precisely what Big Pharma has been doing for the past 35 years. Drug companies have spent hundreds of millions of dollars in propaganda and thinly veiled bribes of psychiatric professionals, to buy acceptance of their products and to increase public demand for those products -- while knowing that they were pushing remedies that are frequently no more effective than placebo or than previous generations of equally ineffective drugs. Pharma also knew that long term outcomes of drug treatments for ailments such as ADHD and mild to moderate depression are very often worse than not medicating at all. But Big Pharma actively worked to bury negative results, divert study outcomes that didn't sell their products, and generally control the discussion of these problems at the National Institutes of

Mental Health, the FDA, and among academic psychiatrists. Whatever its naive good intentions, the profession has been factually wrong on very nearly every promise it has ever made, to explain the nature and cures for human emotional distress and severe cognitive disruption.

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