

sexual problems of the ageing male, but equally criticises medical approaches where the evaluation of psychological factors is "cursory at best", with the focus on the penis at the expense of the individual and the context of his life. This is emphasised by the helpful and judicious use of case histories to illustrate the full range of presenting problems.

This is an authoritative yet readable book that should be helpful not just to those working specifically with older patients or in psychosexual clinics, but to any clinician interested in sexuality and how people in our society come to terms with the physical and psychological changes of ageing.

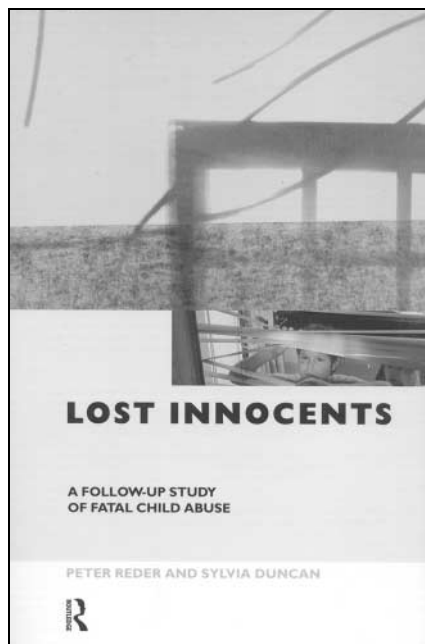
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Lost Innocents: A Follow-Up Study of Fatal Child Abuse

By Peter Reder & Sylvia Duncan. London: Routledge. 1999. 178 pp. £14.99 (pb). ISBN 0 415 20270 1

This excellent book reports on the authors' second major study into fatal child abuse in the UK. It is a follow-up to their report, *Beyond Blame* (Reder *et al*, 1993). The book describes the findings of their study of the 112 part 8 reviews (a part 8 review is the procedure carried out by local area child protection committees and local authorities after a child has been killed or seriously harmed by his or her caregivers) reported to the Home Office during the year ending March 1994.

Reder & Duncan describe many significant findings, outline implications for practice and make important recommendations. For example, they suggest that many assessments of risk are inadequate, owing to a failure to obtain comprehensive information on caregivers. They discuss 'cumulative error', where a number of factors or decisions (each of which may be relatively harmless) may interact and compound each other so that the risk of a disaster is greatly increased. The need for a coherent framework to guide assessments is discussed. Strong arguments are made for the adequate resourcing of services and proper



training and supervision of professionals. A revised model for case reviews, which would both allow for disciplinary action where appropriate but also enhance opportunities to learn how to improve practice, is considered.

This book, attractively presented, with well-chosen case vignettes and excellent reference list, author and subject indexes, should be required reading for health, social services and other professionals involved in working with children, especially (but not only) in child protection work. Professionals (including psychiatrists) who work in adult services should also read it, as they may be in a position to make important contributions to the identification and prevention of child abuse. Those responsible for planning services and allocating resources also need to consider the messages of this study. It is to be hoped that the findings of Reder & Duncan, along with other recent work in this area (e.g. Dent, 1998), will help in developing services to protect children from harm.

Dent, R. (1998) *Dangerous Care: Working to Protect Children*. London: The Bridge Publishing House.

Reder, P., Duncan, S. & Gray, M. (1993) *Beyond Blame, Child Abuse Tragedies Revisited*. London: Routledge.

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The Use of Psychological Testing for Treatment Planning and Outcomes Assessment (2nd edn)

Edited by Mark E. Maruish. London: Lawrence Erlbaum. 1999.

1507 pp. £200.00 (hb). ISBN 0 8058 2761 7

This large volume is divided into four sections. The first begins with three useful chapters on the use of psychological tests in psychiatric screening, treatment planning and outcome evaluation, respectively. The section also contains good chapters on statistical procedures for single case designs and for group data, and a rather pedestrian chapter providing guidelines for the selection of tests for planning treatment and assessing outcome.

The bulk of the book consists, not, as one might expect, of review of available instruments for use in different circumstances, but of chapter-by-chapter reviews of particular instruments. In themselves the chapters are a useful source of information concerning these tests. However, no rationale is provided for the choice of the instruments reviewed or the exclusion of alternatives. Some are obvious choices, such as the Beck scales and the immortal Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory and Rorschach test. For others, I would have liked to have been convinced that these were the best available measures of their kind. From the point of view of a UK reader, the choice reflects the North American origins of the book and omits such widely used measures as the General Health Questionnaire. Another example is the assessment of marital satisfaction by means of the Snider and Aikman measures, whereas in the UK the Golombok-Rust Inventory of Sexual Satisfaction is preferred. Interestingly, the only measure of British provenance is the Hamilton Depression Inventory, an Americanisation of Max Hamilton's standardised clinical interview published in 1960.

There is a loose structure to each chapter which involves a description of the development of standardisation, psychometric properties, uses and interpretation. Beyond this the editor appears to have left it to the discretion of individual authors. Some have included case examples, some problems and limitations.

A book of this size is unwieldy. Even if one accepts that it is unlikely to be anyone's choice of bedtime reading it is unnecessarily bulky, even as a reference work. Fewer and fewer people work with both children and

adults and in my opinion the child and adult sections should have been separated into two volumes.

Its main use is likely to be as a source of information on a particular psychometric instrument, once one has identified it as a focus of interest and established, presumably through a database, that it has a chapter on the instrument in question.

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What Works with Children and Adolescents? A Critical Review of Psychological Interventions with Children, Adolescents and their Families

Edited by Alan Carr. London: Routledge.
2000. 364 pp. £35.00 (hb).
ISBN 0 415 22113 7

Until relatively recently the evidence base has seemed to play little part in the planning of child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS). Treatments offered to children and families attending

many services have therefore been determined as much by the background and interests of the professionals running the service as by the needs of the child. Planning guidance for the purchasers and providers of CAMHS has also tended to eschew the evidence base, placing more emphasis on features like accessibility and comprehensiveness. As a result, in some areas it is possible that families have had easy access to comprehensive services that are at best ineffective or at worst harmful.

Empirically supported interventions have not thus far been widely used by CAMHS for many reasons. One of the most important is the assumption that the evidence base is too thin to allow rational choices about which treatments a service should offer. This book, along with other recent reviews, shows that the evidence base for psychological treatments is in fact larger and stronger than is often believed. In the book, Alan Carr and nine other psychologists present a review of the literature from 1977 to 1997. Many clinical problems are covered, including child abuse, elimination disorders, hyperkinesia, behavioural problems, substance misuse, anxiety, depression, eating disorders and pain. Within each domain the main psychological treatments are described and their evidence base is tabulated. The methodological features of the key empirical

studies are described and their results displayed as effect sizes. Each chapter concludes with a summary of the evidence and with helpful lists of references to training manuals and self-help guides for parents and children.

What Works with Children and Adolescents is a very useful and comprehensive introduction to the empirical basis for the psychological treatment of child and adolescent mental health disorders. Any book that is as ambitious as this will inevitably have some problems. There were technical difficulties with the review: for example, the authors did not find every relevant study and they sometimes missed important methodological problems in those studies that they did identify (such as inadequate randomisation procedures). Moreover, the field is moving fast at the moment, so that some of their conclusions have been overtaken by the findings from more recent studies. Nevertheless, this is a helpful contribution that would make a useful addition to the departmental library.

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