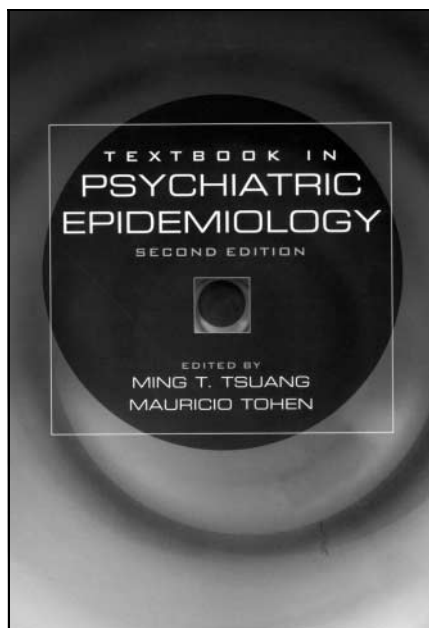


## Book reviews

EDITED BY SIDNEY CROWN, FEMI OYEBODE and ROSALIND RAMSAY

### Textbook in Psychiatric Epidemiology (2nd edn)

Edited by Ming T. Tsuang & Mauricio Tohen.  
New York: Wiley-Liss. 2002.  
722 pp. £92.95 (hb). ISBN 0 471 40974 X



This is the second edition of a textbook first published in 1995. Like the first, it developed out of the Harvard Program in Psychiatric Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Like all second editions, it has expanded: from 483 pages to 722 and from 20 chapters to 24. Continuity has been maintained between the editions by having most of the original authors provide updates to their chapters.

This is clearly an American textbook. At one level this is entirely reasonable, as the USA is easily able to assemble authors of the highest quality in this, as in every other, mainstream academic field. However, it was a criticism aimed at the first edition that it had a strong, perhaps over-strong, American focus. The editors have tried to remedy this (6 of the 48 authors are now European, of whom 4 are based in Britain). However, the American slant remains. It is apparent in the studies referenced and in the theoretical positions

adopted. Thus, the only references to the British and Australian national surveys of psychiatric disorder are in Jane Murphy's chapter on methodology whereas the American National Comorbidity Survey, for all its difficulties, has a chapter to itself. There is also something of a biological preference, which Europeans in particular are probably moving away from. This is illustrated in the (generally very good) chapter on the epidemiology of schizophrenia, where the evidence regarding the impact of stress on the development of psychosis is considerably downplayed. The chapter on methods in psychiatric genetics, by Faraone *et al*, stands out by its open-handedness regarding the role of the environment.

For readers from Europe or elsewhere outside the USA, the North American focus probably does not matter, as they will be exposed to other viewpoints and other studies. It may, however, matter for the American reader who will not be encouraged by this book to see outside the circle.

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**Paul Bebbington** Professor of Social and Community Psychiatry, Royal Free and University College Medical School, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences, Highgate Hill, London N19 5LW, UK.  
E-mail: P.Bebbingtonucl.ac.uk

### Drugs and Addictive Behaviour. A Guide to Treatment (3rd edn)

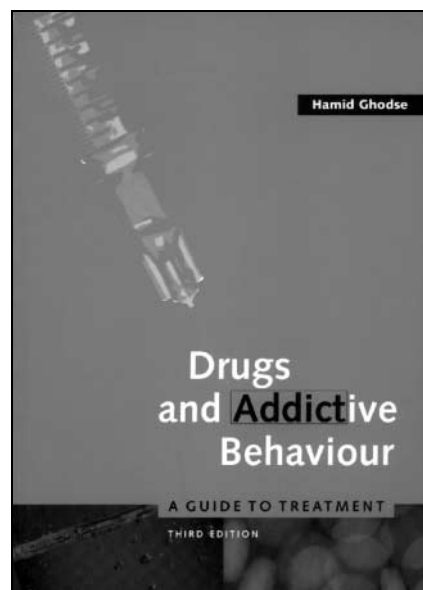
By Hamid Ghodse. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2002. 520 pp.  
£75.00 (hb). ISBN 0521 00001 7;  
£43.00 (pb). ISBN 0 521 81354 9

In a world of electronic media and evidence-based medicine, the role of the single-author textbook has been questioned. Once a staple educational tool for trainees and practising psychiatrists alike, such books are said to lag behind current practice and so are no longer useful reference sources. This issue has been acknowledged in the

latest edition of this well-known British textbook on drug misuse. As a nod to evidence-based medicine, references have been included in the text for the first time and, overall, this new approach provides a useful stimulus to further study. However, this is not the reason that this book deserves a place on the bookshelves of anyone with an interest in helping to tackle the problems of drug misuse.

The author is well-known to British and international audiences for his contributions to both the research and political agendas within the drug treatment field. However, it is the wealth of clinical experience that he conveys in the text that I found most useful. Not only does the book contain standard chapters on assessment, complications of drug misuse and methods of intervention, but also it adapts this information to real-life settings. A chapter devoted to 'special problems' covers practical issues such as drug-dependent patients on medical wards, in the accident and emergency department and in police custody. An excellent description of the various biological and psychological modalities of treatment is accompanied by 'fine detail' such as advice to give patients about driving licences or the legal implications of travelling abroad with prescription medication. The section on the drug-misusing doctor is both relevant and timely.

The book is unashamedly British in its outlook, but this is essential in a field where many key issues are not easily transported from elsewhere. However, the author is able to draw on his extensive knowledge of international issues in the substance misuse



field to enrich the sections on epidemiology, the prevention of drug misuse and the law and drug control policies. This is not the text to turn to for a detailed description of the neurobiology of drugs of misuse, or for an account of genetic theories of causation. Furthermore, despite its title, the book does not stray much beyond addiction to prescription and illegal drugs, although the inclusion of a chapter on alcohol is relevant in the current climate. However, when it comes to applying the evidence to the real-life clinical situations that face a psychiatrist working with people who use illegal drugs, this book reaches the parts that a systematic review-driven approach cannot always reach.

**Ed Day** Senior Clinical Lecturer in Addiction Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, University of Birmingham, Queen Elizabeth Psychiatric Hospital, Mindelsohn Way, Birmingham B15 2QZ, UK

### Studies in the Assessment of Parenting

Edited by Peter Reder, Sylvia Duncan & Clare Lucey. Hove: Brunner–Routledge. 2003. 320 pp. £17.95 (pb). ISBN 1 583 91180 4

*Studies in the Assessment of Parenting* aims to provide a practical guide to professionals who offer expert opinions to the courts in child care cases and to inform day-to-day work in child protection and in enhancing the care of children within their families. Most of the contributors are child and adolescent psychiatrists, but there are chapters by a psychologist, a forensic psychiatrist and a judge. The book is divided into four parts: 'Principles and practice', which offers a framework for assessment, including the problem of cultural matching between assessor and family; 'The child's perspective', in which attachment, significant dimensions of harm, the reliability of child witnesses and the views of children are addressed; 'Assessing parents', which focuses on specific parent groups, for example adolescents, violent individuals and parents with personality disorders; and 'Recommendations', which looks at parental denial, contact arrangements, foster care and adoption, and includes also a chapter in which an experienced judge outlines his

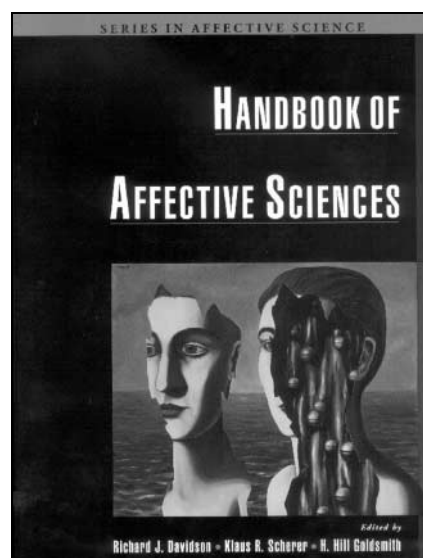
role in weighing up a case and applying the law.

Much will be familiar territory for those working in child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS). However, this book will be of value to higher trainees in CAMHS and other professionals new to this area of work. As a general adult psychiatrist increasingly being called upon to offer expert opinion in relation to maternal mental health in child care cases, I found much of it to be helpful and it will be invaluable to adult psychiatry colleagues who find themselves being asked for an expert opinion. However, other than a very good chapter by Christopher Cordess on parents with personality disorder, there is very little detail on parents with mental illness, which is often reduced to the phrase 'underlying psychopathology'. Concentrating on the legal system in England and Wales, the contributors only occasionally refer to equivalent legislation and almost never to alternative processes in other parts of the UK, which makes parts of this book less useful to professionals in those countries.

**Carol Henshaw** Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry, Keele University School of Medicine, Academic Suite, Harplands Hospital, Hilton Road, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST4 6TH, UK

### Handbook of Affective Sciences

Edited by Richard J. Davidson, Klaus R. Scherer & H. Hill Goldsmith. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2003. 1217 pp. £130.00 (hb). ISBN 0 19 512601 7



This is an outstanding textbook which summarises progress on research in the affective sciences up to about the year 2001. It is a remarkable piece of scholarship and the authors are to be congratulated on having the vision, determination and drive to carry through this project. The individual chapters are well written, but one of the great strengths of the book is that each section is introduced by an overview that draws together the main themes and each has been written with great clarity. There is also evidence of strong editorship in that the volume does not suffer from the usual problems of multi-authored texts with excessive overlap and repetition, and if there are contradictions these are highlighted rather than ignored.

The volume has an excellent introduction which sets the scene and explains the difficult task the authors had in deciding which areas to cover. The introduction contains working definitions of the various phenomena that were targets of enquiry within this handbook (emotions, mood, attitudes, affective style and temperament). The authors make the point that affective science is at the stage that cognitive psychology/neuroscience was at 20 years ago and which is now the most rapidly growing and largest multidisciplinary field in behavioural science today. One can imagine that the publication of this handbook may lead to a similar growth in affective science research.

The book starts with a review of the relevant neuroscience research, followed by accounts of the impact of genetics and development on affect. There are strong sections on the expression and cognitive components of emotion. Finally, the text deals with emotion and affect in their evolutionary, cultural and social contexts as well as their links with 'health' and with 'psychiatry'. Psychiatrists are often uncertain about what psychologists do and are particularly puzzled by the psychology questions in the MRCPsych examinations. Although this volume will not solve the former problem nor provide many answers for the latter, it reveals that conceptually and scientifically psychology research is well advanced and making a real impact on our understanding of complex and ramified topics.

Inevitably with such a large canvas there is some unevenness. I would have liked to have seen a lot more on the genetic underpinnings of emotion and affect but perhaps the editors have given this topic