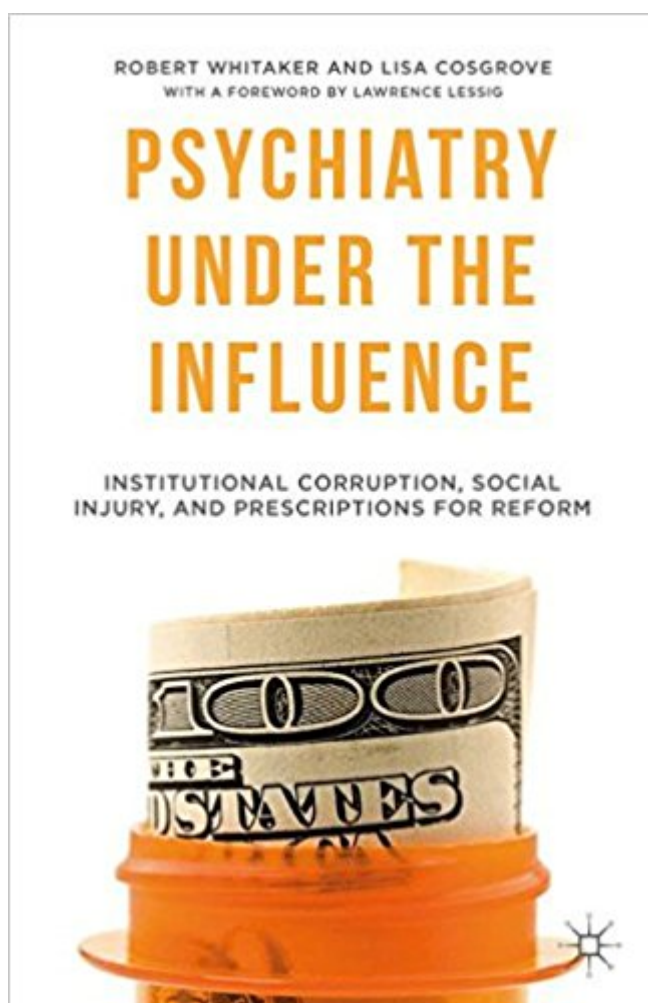


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# Psychiatry Under The Influence: Institutional Corruption, Social Injury, And Prescriptions For Reform



## 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

“This is an extraordinary piece of work that should be read by every mental health professional, minimally. The book might also serve well as a supplemental advanced undergraduate or graduate textbook in a psychopathology or even a research methods class. Where research methods courses separate good from bad science, Whitaker and Cosgrove have now provided us with numerous examples of bad science to which we can now add, corrupt science.” (Fred Ernst, Journal of Contemporary Psychotherapy, Vol. 46, 2016)

"This timely book is a careful and thoughtful analysis of institutional and political influences on the way psychiatry works today, and it provides a scholarly exploration of a problem that has consequences for all of us. Whitaker and Cosgrove's passionate critique gives us the resources to develop solutions and to mobilize voices for an authentically liberating response to questions of mental health." - Ian Parker, Professor of Management, University of Leicester, UK  
Psychiatry Under the Influence is a thoughtful and well-researched exposé of the current framing of mental health and illness, using the lens of institutional corruption to examine the dual influence of

psychiatry's financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry and professional protectionism. This is a profoundly humanistic critique of how the scientific evidence supporting newer psychiatric drug treatments could be so poor, yet have 'street cred'. This a 'must read' on the medicalization of modern life." - Barbara Mintzes, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Sydney, Australia

Just like "Mad in America", this book reads like a whodunnit of how we could have gone so wrong, when we believed so fervently that we were right. But it's not a portrait of individual venality; it's about how a system made it impossible for we as a society to see the problem any differently, and a call for us to come together to look again at what we have done and will do about the problems that psychiatry has arrogated as its own domain. It's not anti-science, or even anti-psychiatry; it's about the pitfalls of giving any one way of looking at or thinking about humans or human life a monopoly. It's about the danger of giving our lives and our selves over to any ungovernable authority, thinking it will make us safe from fear or harm; a mistake we have made many times in history, with equally tragic results every time. But most of all, it's about the fact that we have been lied to about the evidence that was given in support of the authority that psychiatry has come to occupy; the fact that the science that supposedly underpins the hegemony that medicine has come to have over human suffering is simply flawed and, in many cases, outright fraud. As with "Mad in America" I read it in one night, unable to put it down, my heart pounding at having what had been a mystery that frightened me explicated in precise, clear, and even elevating prose. I put it down sad not to be able to keep reading, because it left me with the daunting prospect of figuring out how to follow its exhortation to action.

This is a very important book that exposes the unhealthy and hidden alliance between psychiatry and the pharmaceutical industry. A must read for mental health professionals and for anyone on or considering psychotropic drugs.

Absolutely essential reading for everyone in our society. We are all impacted by what psychiatry has become in the last 35 years. The ever expanding net of drugs for ever expanding definitions of pathology means that few of us are safe from medical intervention into even the most private, personal parts of our lives. In a climate where crying over the loss of a child for longer than two weeks is described as a 'disease' requiring medication or treatments that are far too frequently ineffective and/or actually harmful, we are at the mercy of interests that cannot really be described as 'in the patient's best interests'. Whitaker and Cosgrove have produced exhaustive proof of

duplicity and corruption in arguably the most pervasive of all medical disciplines. Only a percentage of us get cancer, or heart disease, or even dementia, but all of us are vulnerable to afflictions of the soul. It is time these people answered to the people. Thank you Robert Whitaker and Lisa Cosgrove.

Big Pharma is exposed as a marketing dynamo for drugs that are off label, over used and poorly researched. Their profits are far more important than the recovery of their patients. I have a friend who is a cardiologist who just laughs at the "research" cited by the industry for their treatment plans for psychological problems. Sad to say, many psychiatrists are complicit in pushing these drugs.

This is another key work on the dynamics of psychiatry in the past 60 years. It is important for a careful read, meticulously researched and sure to inspire defensiveness in those institutionalized by a field that veered away from humane care in favor of corporate dishonesty and greed.

Must reading for anyone in the mental health field, and especially psychiatrists. What you don't know may shock you.

Robert Whitaker, along with Lisa Cosgrove at his absolute best once again educating the public on the truth. A must read for anyone involved with the mental health care system, patients, ex-patients, and especially therapists, and psychiatrists'.

A book everyone should read.

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