



DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT

Presenting Problem

Name (First, MI, Last)

Diagnosis:

Automatic Stress Disorder



Classification & Diagnosis

Medical & Psychiatric Diagnosis (Cromby, Harper, & Reavey, 2013)

Purposes of diagnosis in medicine:

- To indicate the correct treatment
- To enable predictions to be made about outcome (prognosis)
- To provide a basis for research.
- To indicate probable cause of illness.
- To enable professionals to communicate with each other.
- To provide information and services to patients, carers, support groups, etc.

Medical vs Psychological Explanations of Illness

- How is psychiatric diagnosis similar to, and different from, diagnosis in medicine?
- How adequate is the case formulation as an alternative to psychiatric diagnosis?

Problems with Psychiatric Diagnosis

Reliability

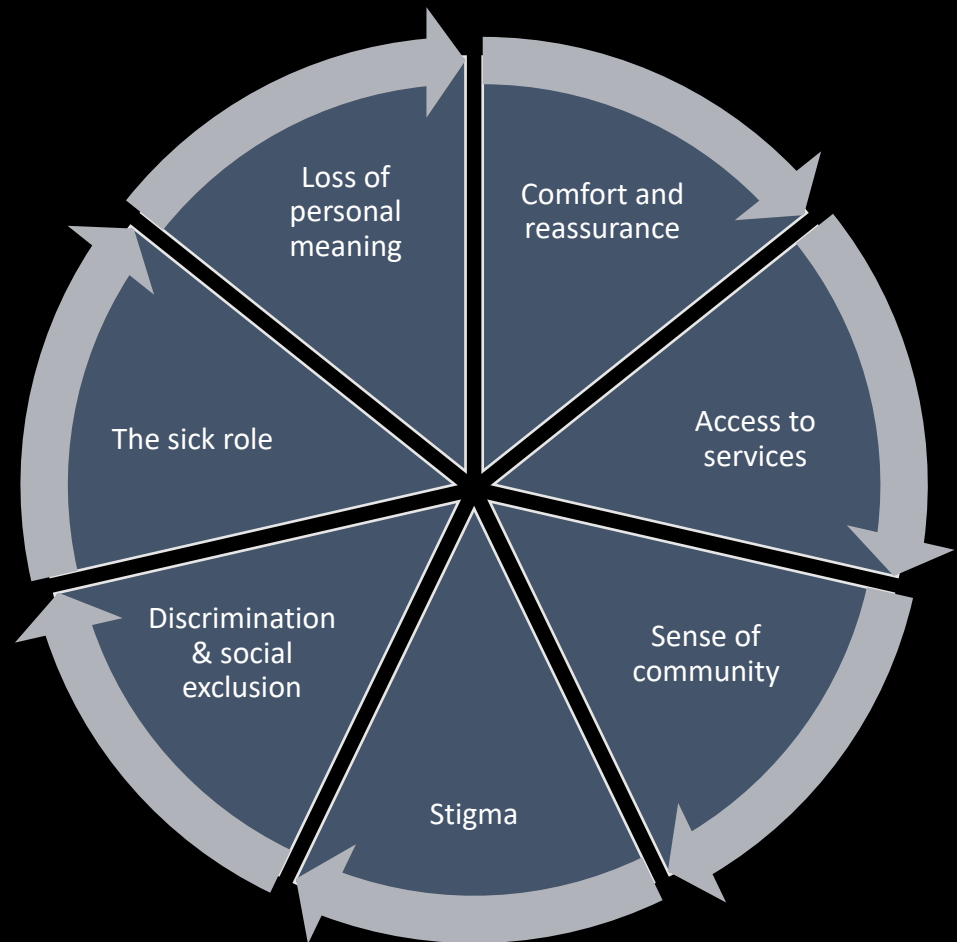
Co-morbidity

Validity

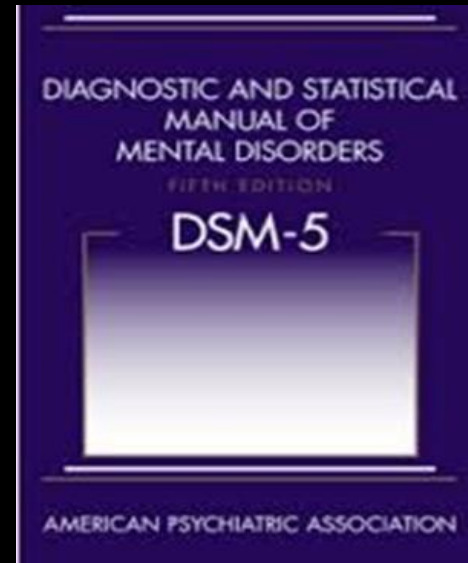
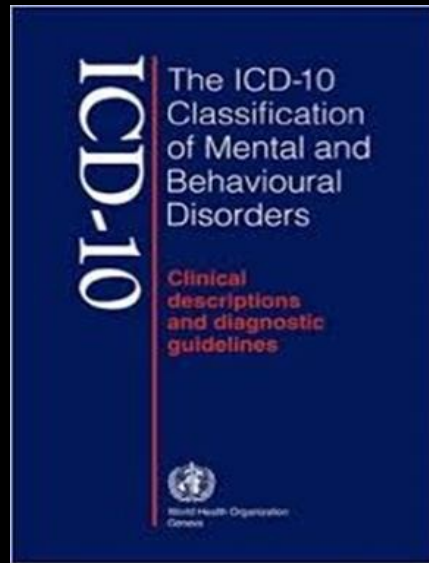
Cross-cultural perspectives

Psychiatric diagnosis as social judgement

Consequences of diagnosis for service users



Diagnosis and Classification



Classification Systems

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual

- A medical model of illness
- Most commonly used system for diagnosing mental health problems
- Diagnoses based on the presence of a number of symptoms

DSM-V published in 2013

Advantages of DSM classification system

- Simplicity of classification/definition
- Dichotomous outcomes
- Reliable diagnoses consistent within and across countries

Disadvantages of DSM classification system

- Dichotomy difficult to sustain
- Suggests mentally ill people have qualitatively different experiences
- Little attention paid to individual's experience
- Ignores social and psychological factors

Concerns over use of
DSM classification
system

- Diagnosis based upon such systems is not clear cut
- Validity of classifications questioned.
- Clinician biases
- Ignores cultural/societal differences – assumes “abnormality” is universal.

DSM-V: The Future of Psychiatric Diagnosis

- Publication of the fifth edition of *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-5) in 2013
- Massive controversy!
- Why?

saving

nor•mal (nôr/n

1. an insider's revolt against
out-of-control psychiatric
diagnosis, DSM-5, big pharma,
and the medicalization of
ordinary life

Allen Frances, M.D.¹

¹Chair of DSM-IV Task Force

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AMvrcBvYWk>