

Julie Netherland (Editor) - Critical Perspectives on Addiction - Advances in Medical Sociology, Volume 14

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Review

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Addiction is an intensely used word. The contemporary discourse about addiction demonstrates ambiguity. The Volume *Critical Perspectives on Addiction* edited by Julie Netherland and published by Emerald Books in 2012 offers a full perspective on addiction and includes "debates over the nosology of addiction as part of the revision to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), the expansion of addiction's meaning and spheres of control beyond alcohol and illicit substances, the rise of neuroscience, the increasing 'pharmaceuticalization' of everyday life and new pharmaceutical treatments for addiction, growing awareness about the intersection of the drug war and the mass incarceration of people of color, and new theoretical frameworks for understanding the role of addiction as a fundamental technique of social control".

The concept of addiction is explored using current scientific debates about how addiction is constituted, how addiction has been described over time, and how the new technologies are reconfiguring the concept of addiction. The need for a contemporary look at addiction has determined the editor to divide the volume into four parts.

Part 1 – Theoretical perspectives and the (Bio)Medicalization of addiction includes 3 articles: "Medicalization and Biomedicalization: Does the Diseaseing of Addiction fit the Frame?" by Nancy D. Campbell, "De-Medicalizing Addiction: Toward Biocultural Understandings" by Kerwin Kaye and "Pharmaceutical Incursion on Cigarette smoking at the Birth of the Brain Disease Model of Addiction"

by Mark Elam. These articles offer a "historical, theoretical, and empirical look at the (bio)medicalization of addiction".

Part 2 – Addiction Intervention – Race and the Shaping of Addicts contains two articles: "Two Tiers of Biomedicalization: Methadone, Buprenorphine, and the Racial Politics of Addiction Treatment" by Helena Hansen and Samuel K. Roberts, and "Intervention: Reality TV, Whiteness, and Narratives of Addiction" by Jessie Daniels. These two studies focus on "the role of racial identity and racial politics in responses to addiction".

Part 3 – Punishing the Sick and Saving the Lost – Addiction and Social Control includes two chapters "Drawing the Line at Drinking for Two: Governmentality, Biopolitics, and Risk in State Legislation on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders" by Deborah A. Potter, and "Into the Light: Evangelical Rehab and the Seduction of New Life" by Teresa Gowan and Jack Atmore. This section explores "the ways in which addiction, even when understood as a disease, operates to control 'addicts' and others who use substances in ways that violate normative expectations".

Part 4 – Losing Control – the Expansion of 'Addiction' and its Implications.... Making Addicts of the Fat: Obesity, Psychiatry and the 'Fatties Anonymous' Model of Self-help Weight Loss in the Post-War United States by Jessica Parr and Nicolas Rasmussen, "I Just Couldn't Keep it in Control Anymore": Weight Loss Surgery, Food Addiction, and Anti-Fat Stigma by Zoe Meleo-Erwin Video Game Addiction: User Perspectives by Luther Elliott, Geoffrey Ream and Elizabeth

McGinsky. These last three chapters analyze “the expansion of ‘addiction’ to other arenas”.

Overall, the 10 chapters of this volume offer new insights into the study of addiction, demonstrate that our understandings and

perceptions of addiction change and fills a gap in addiction studies by providing the readers with original and new critical perspectives that compete with the traditional understandings of addiction.