

Editorial – ADHD revisited

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One of the Facebook groups I just about belong to consists of people protesting, often from the position of being on the receiving end, about the state of psychiatry and psychology. The protests and discussions are mostly about the mutually profitable relationship between psychiatry and the pharmaceutical industry. Psychology is rarely mentioned and clinical psychology not at all. Inscriptions (diagnoses), however are used with no reference to their lack of validity and 'alternative' (actually age-old) treatments are suggested including nutritional supplements and various homeopathic unguents. The whole process leaves me in the 'Oh Christ! Here we go again' group as – for the umpteenth time – I wonder if I can bear to re-hash the arguments concerning psychiatric inscription (great for getting State-funded benefits, useless as an explanatory discourse) and point to relevant reading matter (*JCPCP* pretty much covers the bill and *A Critical A-Z of Electroshock* would sink the entire psychiatric enterprise from psychotherapy through to leucotomy if there weren't fifty or more pro-Psy books published weekly).

And don't get me started on the way television and TED talks push diagnoses at us in the name of 'increasing awareness' about something they call mental health. The ad for Lloyds bank tells us that one in four people 'suffer' with some psy condition or other. Of course *all* of us are inscribable – that's the point of *DSM*. But imagine if the labels were valid – you go into Lloyds bank and a cashier happily hands over two grand from someone else's account. You both get let off because you both have a diagnosis of bi-polar and claim to have been manic.

ADHD falls firmly into the category of factitious disorders. It is a label for disruptive conduct that drives teachers and parents to distraction and, as being driven to distraction is entirely subjective, the likelihood of being inscribed is based on the observer's tolerance. This special issue is an acknowledgement that the 'Oh Christ! Here we go again' position is always an option. Some things just bear repeating. This one's for Dorothy in the land of Oz.