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The social construction of mental illness and its implications for neuroplasticity

The social construction of mental illness and its implications for neuroplasticity examine how the current concept of mental illness in society informs the dialogic skills and perspectives of psychotherapists. The common interpretation of unconventional behavior as a symptom of illness has marginalized the creative class and deterred mental health professionals from developing the skills and perspectives needed to empower their clients. Too often the neuroplasticity of the human brain is ignored in favor of the organizing metaphor of chemical imbalance which often results in the relegation of clients' needs to the pharmaceutical industry. Michael T. Walker encourages psychotherapists to evolve their practice by considering the new information available in neuroscience, psychotherapy outcome studies, and postmodern psychotherapies.

Biography

Michael T Walker has been exploring client-centered, collaborative and constructivist methods for 25 years while working in community mental health in South Central Los Angeles as well as in private practice. His commitment to results in Psychotherapy has led him to a powerful historical, philosophical (postmodern) and linguistic critique of the clinical worldview.

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