

'The *Routledge International Handbook of Critical Mental Health* provides a comprehensive, wide-ranging, and up-to-date portrayal of a wide variety of critical approaches toward psychiatry in a global context. It is an essential tool for all students, researchers, and clinicians who are interested in alternative models of the theory, history, politics, and professional practice of mental health and illness.' — **Allan V. Horwitz**, *Board of Governors Professor Sociology, Rutgers University, USA*

'Bruce Cohen has brought together a wide variety of critical scholarship on mental health issues in this new Routledge Handbook. Anyone seeking an overview of the diverse and often contradictory sorts of critique of psychiatric orthodoxy that have developed in the past half century will find this a provocative and enlightening volume.' — **Andrew Scull**, *Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Science Studies, University of California, San Diego*

The *Routledge International Handbook of Critical Mental Health* offers the most comprehensive collection of theoretical and applied writings to date with which students, scholars, researchers and practitioners within the social and health sciences can systematically problematise the practices, priorities and knowledge base of the Western system of mental health. With the continuing contested nature of psychiatric discourse and the work of psy-professionals, this book is a timely return to theorising the business of mental health as a social, economic, political and cultural project: one which necessarily involves the consideration of wider societal and structural dynamics including labelling and deviance, ideological and social control, professional power, consumption, capital, neoliberalism and self-governance.

Featuring original essays from some of the most established international scholars in the area, the *Handbook* discusses and provides updates on critical theories of mental health from labelling, social constructionism, antipsychiatry, Foucauldian and Marxist approaches to critical feminist, race and queer theory, critical realism, critical cultural theory and mad studies. Over six substantive sections, the collection additionally demonstrates the application of such theoretical ideas and scholarship to key topics including medicalisation and pharmaceuticalisation, the DSM, global psychiatry, critical histories of mental health, and talk therapy.

Bringing together the latest theoretical work and empirical case studies from the US, the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and Canada, the *Routledge International Handbook of Critical Mental Health* demonstrates the continuing need to think critically about mental health and illness, and will be an essential resource for all who study or work in the field.

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**SOCIOLOGY/CRITICAL THEORY/MENTAL HEALTH**

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