

Why the Witchdoctor Lives
at the Edge of Town...



**Good Diagnosis—
Bad Therapy**

a tribute to Jay Haley... 3 CEHs in Diagnosis

1

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2

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**Perspectives
for the Postmodern
Healer**

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3

4



A consortium of mental health practitioners, educators, and policy-makers dedicated to the creation of a healthy professional culture for all mental health practitioners.

5



Professional .. Political .. Spiritual

6



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7



RED RIVER INSTITUTE
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STRATEGIC THERAPY &
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FOR LMFTs & LPCs

8

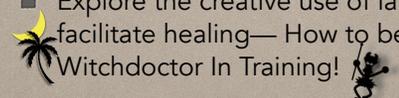
GOODDIAGNOSISBADTHERAPY
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Explore the relationship between the act of diagnosis & the process of healing
- Explore the difference between a diagnosis & a clinical hypothesis
- Explore the ethical & unethical use of conventional diagnoses

9

GOODDIAGNOSISBADTHERAPY
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Explore the creative use of labels to facilitate healing— How to become a Witchdoctor In Training!



GOODDIAGNOSISBADTHERAPY
diagnosis&healing

diagnosis

the art & science of
distinguishing **this** from
that.

**creating
a taxonomy**

building a system for sorting
and organizing **this** & **that**.

healing

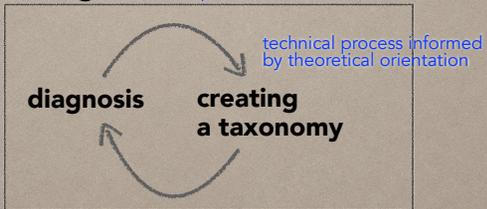
 A complex process that
relieves & restores.

10

GOODDIAGNOSISBADTHERAPY
diagnosis&healing

healing

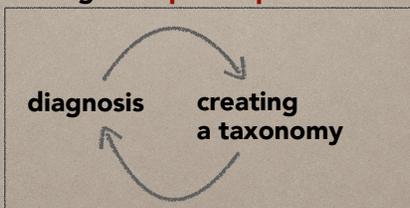
transtheoretical, transdisciplinary
ethical imperative



11

GOODDIAGNOSISBADTHERAPY
diagnosis&healing

healing . . ? profit politics



12

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diagnosis&healing

13

- As a human being we cannot not “diagnosis” & create taxonomies.
- As clinicians, we are compelled to create specialized taxonomies informed by our **ideas of problem formation & problem resolution**.
- The act of “diagnosing” is never a neutral act. it carries real-world consequences that either enhance or detract from well-being.

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diagnosis&healing

14

- Ethics requires that the clinician diagnose in a manner that leads to **healing action**.

GOODDIAGNOSISBADTHERAPY
framing&labelling

15

baseball

boy 1 throws ball
boy 2 hits ball

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framing&labelling

16

baseball

boy 1 throws ball
boy 2 hits ball
boy 2 runs to wicket

dissonance

GOODDIAGNOSISBADTHERAPY
framing&labelling

17

cricket *semantic or "second-order" description*

boy 1 throws ball
boy 2 hits ball
boy 2 runs to wicket

political or "first order" description

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framing&labelling

18

cricket

boy 1 throws ball
boy 2 hits ball
boy 2 runs to wicket

director yells cut

movie about cricket

boy 1 throws ball
boy 2 hits ball
boy 2 runs to wicket
director yells cut

movie about cricket

boy 1 throws ball
boy 2 hits ball
boy 2 runs to wicket
director yells cut
director wakes up

dream about cricket movie

boy 1 throws ball
boy 2 hits ball
boy 2 runs to wicket
director yells cut
director wakes up

GOODDIAGNOSISBADTHERAPY
framing&labelling

borderline

wife yells

22

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framing&labelling

spousal conflict

wife yells

wife yells at husband

23

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framing&labelling

great teamwork

wife yells

wife yells at husband

husband responds-
subdues intruder

24

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framing&labelling

25

PTSD

wife yells
wife yells at husband
husband responds-
subdues intruder
wife wakes up in
a panic

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framing&labelling

26

- Meaning is derived when there is coherence or **resonance** between semantic & political descriptions of a given frame of reference.
- Resonance will be achieved or maintained by modifying either the semantic or political descriptions of a given frame of reference.
- The clinician's theoretical orientation predisposes the clinician to apply a particular semantic frame to the narrative of the client.

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framing&labelling

27



The clinician's frame of reference is forever partial, incomplete, & tentative—and must be kept in flux to maintain its relevance to the needs of the client.

GOODDIAGNOSISBADTHERAPY
diagnosis vs hypothesis

28

DSM Diagnosis

atheoretical description of
syndromes

taxonomic label divorced
from treatment

used to communicate about
clusters of symptoms across
disciplines

Clinical Hypothesis

theoretical statement about
a co-created problem

clinical statement informed
by theory that suggests a
solution to a problem

used to generate and test
clinical interventions

GOODDIAGNOSISBADTHERAPY
diagnosis vs hypothesis

29

DSM Diagnosis

static

Clinical Hypothesis

fluid; value is relative to its
usefulness in bringing about
positive change

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diagnosis vs hypothesis

30

 The skill of the clinician in utilizing the DSM taxonomy to categorize "symptomology" is unrelated to his or her skill in facilitating positive change in the life of the client being diagnosed.

 Rather, creating positive change is dependent on the clinician's skill in formulating **clinical hypotheses** consistent with his or her theoretical orientation and testing them with interventions.

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diagnosis vs hypothesis

31



Utilization of the DSM as a medical book of disorders rather than a taxonomy of syndromes tempts the clinician to ignore uniquenesses in the client that often hold the key to facilitating positive change . . .

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diagnosis vs hypothesis

32



. . . and also can discourage the clinician from exploring key contextual elements in the narrative of the client that may be important in facilitating healing.

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ethical label management

33

- Any labels that arise from “godlike certainty” should immediately be scrapped.
- Any labels used by the clinician should result in empowerment and hope for the client and the clinician.
- The clinician must be willing to deconstruct & reframe labels that oppress, discourage, belittle, marginalize, or create disbelief in the client’s ability to change.

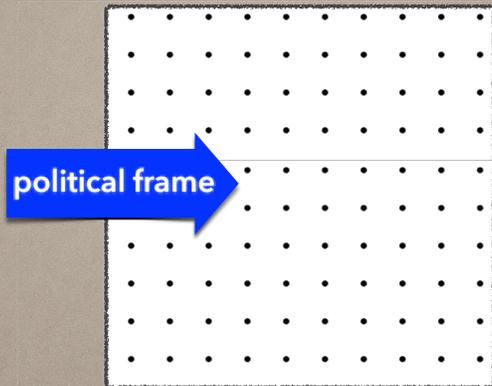
GOODDIAGNOSISBADTHERAPY
ethicallabelmanagement

34

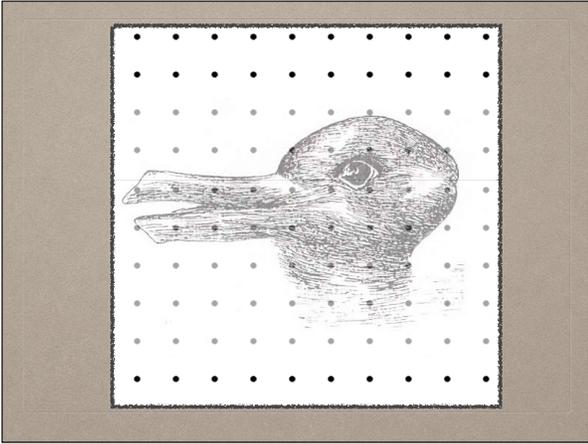
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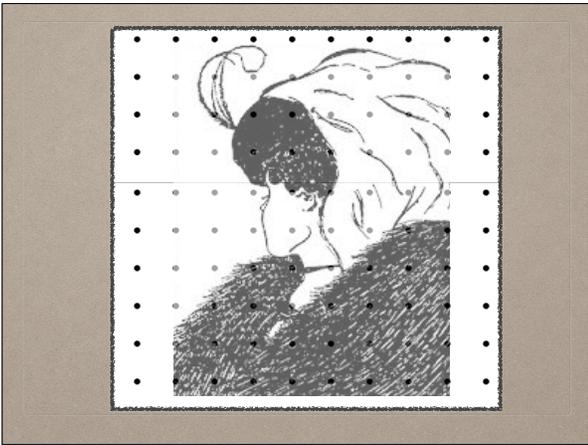
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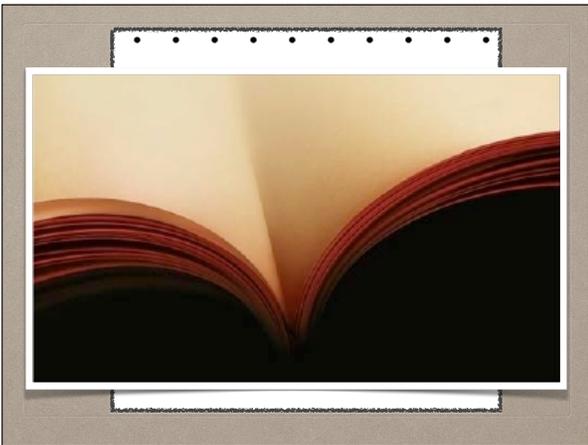
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37



38



39

