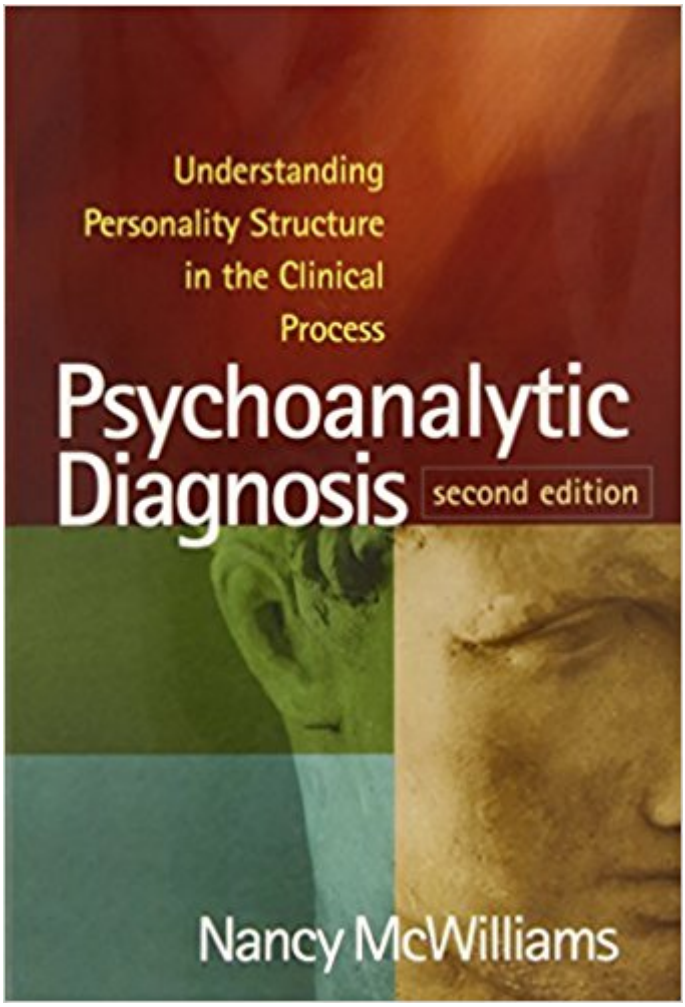
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Psychoanalytic Diagnosis, Second Edition: Understanding Personality Structure In The Clinical Process



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Synopsis

This acclaimed clinical guide and widely adopted text has filled a key need in the field since its original publication. Nancy McWilliams makes psychoanalytic personality theory and its implications for practice accessible to practitioners of all levels of experience. She explains major character types and demonstrates specific ways that understanding the patient's individual personality structure can influence the therapist's focus and style of intervention. Guidelines are provided for developing a systematic yet flexible diagnostic formulation and using it to inform treatment. Highly readable, the book features a wealth of illustrative clinical examples. Ã Â New to This Edition *Reflects the ongoing development of the author's approach over nearly two decades. *Incorporates important advances in attachment theory, neuroscience, and the study of trauma. *Coverage of the contemporary relational movement in psychoanalysis. Winner--Canadian Psychological Association's Goethe Award for Psychoanalytic and Psychodynamic Scholarship

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Customer Reviews

"This is a book for all clinicians who aspire to understand their clients deeply and help them live more richly and authentically. McWilliams synthesizes a century of cumulative clinical wisdom and offers it in a form that is accessible and useful to clinicians of any theoretical persuasion. The first edition of Psychoanalytic Diagnosis was an instant classic; the second edition is exceptionally lucid and masterful. This is McWilliams, master clinician and teacher, at her very best."--Jonathan Shedler, PhD, Department of Psychiatry, University of Colorado School of Medicine"In revising

Psychoanalytic Diagnosis, McWilliams has surpassed herself. The original--deservedly regarded as a classic--was an integrative tour de force; the second edition is even better. Informed by current advances in neuroscience and infant research, and reshaped in light of the 'relational turn' in contemporary psychoanalysis, this book distills a vast literature on development, psychopathology, and therapy into an extraordinarily useful map of the clinical terrain. It is at once an indispensable resource for beginning therapists, a valuable teaching tool, and a comprehensive reference for seasoned clinicians."--David J. Wallin, PhD, private practice, Mill Valley and Albany, California"In this accessible and impassioned book, McWilliams provides organizing principles to help us understand psychopathology without oversimplifying or evading the difficult questions raised by diagnosis. Reading McWilliams's book will make you feel like you know her. Her extraordinary humanity, wisdom, deep sense of ethics, and steady concern for her patients are evident throughout. The second edition includes an updated presentation of attachment theory, addresses the contributions of relational theory and neuroscience research, and integrates a contemporary understanding of somatization and defense. A 'must read' for every clinician in training."--Joyce A. Slochower, PhD, Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis, New York University"If a 'charming textbook' seems like an oxymoron, then welcome to Nancy McWilliams's Psychoanalytic Diagnosis. Her book is just such a wonder....McWilliams has succeeded in producing a book for initial learning that will remain on her readers' desks as a frequently thumbed manual." (Psychoanalytic Books 2011-07-16)"Thanks to McWilliams's excellent book, those of us who teach or supervise can at last offer our students and supervisees a comprehensive, exceptionally well-organized text on diagnosis, grounded in evolving psychoanalytic theory and focused on linking diagnosis to the appropriate therapeutic response....Experienced therapists will enjoy a thorough 'refresher' course while also absorbing new ideas, and less experienced clinicians will gain a solid structural foundation and essential guidelines for their clinical work." (Contemporary Psychology 2011-07-16)"With humor, warmth, and enthusiasm, Dr. McWilliams instills confidence while making the book a delectable read. There is no doubt that the goal of 'enhancing practice' has been achieved. This book is highly recommended to any clinician-in-training as a foundation for psychoanalytic thinking and also to any practicing therapist as a well-structured and comprehensive resource....This book will be a rich addition to learning about psychoanalytic diagnosis (and psychoanalytic concepts) for any younger mental health professional who is seriously interested in depth psychology. It will also be a valuable tool for more experienced clinicians and educators who would like assistance in translating fairly complex concepts into language that can be appreciated by learners of a variety of different levels of sophistication and

disciplinary backgrounds." (Journal of Clinical Psychiatry 2012-10-01)

Nancy McWilliams, PhD, ABPP, teaches in the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and has a private practice in Flemington, New Jersey. She is a former president of the Division of Psychoanalysis (39) of the American Psychological Association and is on the editorial board of Psychoanalytic Psychology. Dr. McWilliamsÃ¢â ¬â„¢s books have been translated into 14 languages, and she has lectured widely both nationally and internationally. She is a recipient of honors including the Rosalee Weiss Award for contributions to practice from the Division of Independent Practitioners of the American Psychological Association; Honorary Membership in the American Psychoanalytic Association; and the Robert S. Wallerstein Visiting Scholar Lectureship in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis at the University of California, San Francisco. A graduate of the National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis, Dr. McWilliams is also affiliated with the Center for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy of New Jersey and the National Training Program of the National Institute for the Psychotherapies in New York City.Ã Â

Simply put, this book helps the clinician understand how treatment should proceed with different types of clients. With what type of client is self-disclosure contraindicated? When should one be hyperattentive to boundaries and when should one be more lax? When is a client’s adversarial and selfish behavior in session a good thing? With which clients should interpretation be minimized? With whom is detailed, linear "left-brain" thinking complementary and helpful, and with whom is it counterproductive? The book links personality with treatment planning in an easily understandable and highly readable way.

Dr McWilliams is in a class by herself when it comes to psychoanalytic diagnosis. Required reading for many Masters level and Doctoral level students, it is an amazing addition to the library of any clinician, no matter how experienced.

In a time where the DSM, version whatever, has become the diagnostic equivalent of scripture, Nancy McWilliams offers a book that bases diagnoses on understanding the individual rather than a collection of odds-and-ends symptoms. Mental health practioners may always be bound by the DSM in working with insurance companies, but the ideas presented in this book will provide a much deeper understanding of what guides many of the surface-level symptoms. McWilliam’s writing is

clear and concise, simple enough for the beginner but addressing issues of the complexity of diagnoses appropriate for the practiced clinician. This is not a one-time read -- if you have read it once, you will find yourself returning to it many times again.

Not only is it practically a meta-analysis of psychoanalytic literature from her thorough assimilation of all the best books of all time - it reads well! Ever try to read Kernberg, or Kohut? - absolute tedium, but McWilliams makes extremely complex concepts palatable, illustrates them with client stories, and reminds you why everyone needs a foundation in these concepts when trying to understand clients.Note: It’s dense, be prepared to read it many times over.

This is a great book for a beginning clinician or those unfamiliar with psychodynamics. It is clear and concise, she explains each idea clearly, while providing a basic history and different points of view on it. It is structured beautifully, very very accessible. I like the summaries and reading suggestions she provides. In all, one will get an excellent idea into diagnosis, regardless of their theoretical orientation. Also, this book helps one understand basic terms such as ’ego states’ etc which we encounter in other psychotherapeutic literature but do not get. It is simply an excellent text and I think every clinician should read it. its really improved my understanding and aided my work.

Nancy cant do no wrong. The book reads itself so well that I actually enjoyed it even though it was part of required reading in my doctoral program. Honestly, I love her. Her writing is so clear and precise and often humorous that even though the material is not exactly funny the book is still a very enjoyable read.

I do not know in any language another such audacious and successful attempt to reconcile the requirements of up-to-date psychiatric curricula with continuing tradition of psychodynamic training for psychiatric interns and residents. And this book would be equally precious gift as well as for psychiatric interns and residents as for their psychiatric teachers. Even for the teacher from somewhat different than the author, psychiatric and psychoanalytical traditions, it would be not at all difficult to add their specific vistas among these guidelines. Especially, as the author herself is generous enough to finish her every chapter with "suggestions for further reading".

Dr. Mc William’s Psychoanalytic Diagnosis provides a solid foundation for case conceptualization. Enjoyable read for those interested in the field of psychology. I find myself very intrigued by her

analysis. She covers each chapter in a way that demonstrates her abilities to succinctly empathize with individuals I haven't seen any other practitioners quite capture in writing the essence of psychoanalysis like she has.A classic must have!

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