

**medicalization- Conrad:** non-medical problems become *defined* and *treated* as illness, disorder/disease & syndrome

**ADHD stats:** 11% of 14-17 yr olds diagnosed, 66% receive medicine, boys are 2-3x more likely to be diagnosed

**ADHD definition-** attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder- has to do w/ socialization, self control, behaviors

**Rafalovich-** names/diagnosis of ADHS keeps changing, all terms used to describe childhood deviance and an increasing drive to medicalize unconventional childhood behavior

**direct-to-consumer marketing & pharmaceutical co's-** Conrad "before there were drugs these conditions didn't exist" . medicalization- agent of social control. "medicalization is now more driven by commercial and market interests than by professional claimsmakers"

**off-label use of drugs-** prescribing medications unapproved (by FDA) indication, using drugs to treat things they aren't necessarily made for

**"me too" drugs-** when they barely change chemical structure of a drug & market it differently

**DSM I-** had about 100 diagnoses, **DSM IV** has about 300

**FAS-** fetal alcohol syndrome, if identified early, some may choose not to have baby

**Fibromyalgia-** disease that lay people are fighting to legitimize, read article

**PMDD-** pre-menstrual dysphoric disorder- medicalized by pharmaceutical companies

**erectile dysfunction-** many argue that the pharmaceutical companies have created and marketed diseases, that is, medicalized mostly normal variation in human experience, into pathology in order to sell the treatment, What Viagra did was make erectile dysfunction, something considered normal as you get older, into a problem because the medical solution was created

**Mental illness - Horwitz: "Inside the Battle to Define Mental Illness"**

**Depression and Unhappiness - Dworkin**

distress & unhappiness are considered pathological- emotions we have recently medicalized. need to differentiate depression and unhappiness- if someone is stressed because of one event, that does not mean they are depressed

**DSM and the dimensional approach** slide 24

**Frontiers of Medicalization** slide 29

**racism as a mental illness-** "abnormal behavior based on fear"

**genetics (Evans-"Brave New World")** slide 29

**Peter Conrad- pathologicalization of everything:**

1. Define medicalization.

a. What does it mean that medicalization is more concerned with the viability of the designation, rather than the validity of the diagnosis?

sociology isn't concerned w/ whether or not it is a real condition ex: viagra, rather more considered w/ what diagnosis means & what are the ramifications

2. Who are the major claimsmakers of medicalization?

pharmaceutical companies- do it for the money, physicians do it for the morality of helping people, and lay advocates for the validity of their claims ex of lay org- ADDA for adults with ADHD

a. How have erectile dysfunction, menstruation, and what we call ADHD been medicalized?

erectile dysfunction- pharmaceuticals (Viagra- solution created before problem)

menstruation- lay advocates (females)

ADHD-

3. How does the DSM make diagnoses?

a. How does the DSM create the line between normality and abnormality in behaviors, psychic states, or human conditions?

DSM has parameters, need to have certain symptoms to be diagnosed, if you have none or don't have enough then you're normal, if you fit diagnosis then you're abnormal- can be good and bad ex: unhappiness vs depression

b. How do sociologists suggest that disorder could also be understood as distress

distress & unhappiness are considered pathological- emotions we have recently medicalized. need to differentiate depression and unhappiness (Dworkan).

Horwitz; "prob. w/ DSM's definition (slide 22&23) of mental disorder is that criteria set for disorders contradicts own definitions, leaves things open for different diagnoses- symptoms out of context could just be natural reactions in life ex: stress during finals

when patients self diagnose, doctors are more likely to give placebos

4. What is the role of genetics in current issues of medicalization?

medicalizations tries to look at biological medical framework, if you're abnormality is genetic, you can never get rid of it. ex: once you're schizophrenic, you're an schizophrenic for the rest of your life because it's a disease and can be passed down to others

a. Connect your ideas to the article "Brave New World."

5. Do you agree that we are moving towards the "pathologization of everything?"

When we pathologize something, we're medicalizing it, life processes are now being pathologized ex: erectile dysfunction, PMDD are now being seen through a medical framework- behaviors that are deviating from the norm (ex: hyperactive children) are diagnosed (with ADHD)