

Contents

<i>Preface to the second edition</i>	xiii
<i>List of figures and tables</i>	xvi

1 Perspectives on mental health and illness

Chapter overview	1
The perspectives outwith sociology	2
The lay view	2
Psychiatry	3
Psychoanalysis	5
Psychology	6
The statistical notion	7
The ideal notion	7
The presence of specific behaviours	8
Distorted cognitions	9
The legal framework	9
Conclusion about the perspectives outwith sociology	11
The perspectives within sociology	11
Social causation	12
Societal reaction (labelling theory)	13
Critical theory	16
Social constructivism	18
Social realism	20
Discussion	21
To conclude	23
Questions	23
For discussion	24
Further reading	24

2 Social class, inequalities, and mental health 25

Chapter overview	25
The general relationship between social class and health status	26
The relationship between social class and diagnosed mental illness	29
The relationship between poverty and mental health status	31
Social class and mental health professionalism	35
Lay views about mental health and social class	36
Conceptual problems of psychiatric epidemiology	37
Discussion	37
To conclude	39
Questions	39
For discussion	39
Further reading	40

3 Gender 41

Chapter overview	41
The over-representation of women in mental health statistics	42
Does society cause excessive female mental illness?	44
Vulnerability factors	44
Provoking agents	46
Symptom formation factors	46
Is female over-representation a measurement artefact?	47
Sex differences in help-seeking behaviour	48
Are women labelled as mentally ill more often than men?	50
The effects of labelling secondary deviance – women and minor tranquillizers	53
Men and psychiatry	56
Gender and dangerousness	56
Gender and sexuality	58
Discussion	60
To conclude	62
Questions	62
For discussion	62
Further reading	63

4 Race and ethnicity 64

Chapter overview	64
Theoretical presuppositions about race	65
Race and health	66
Racialized psychiatric admissions	67
What is the nature of contact with psychiatry?	72

Type of admission	72
Diagnosis	72
The labelling merely reflects actual incidence	73
Misdiagnosis	73
Racist psychiatric constructs	74
Treatment and management	75
Asian women and the somatization thesis	77
Irish people and psychiatry	78
Discussion	80
To conclude	82
Questions	82
For discussion	83
Further reading	83
 5 Age	 84
Chapter overview	84
Emotions and primary socialization	85
Childhood sexual abuse and mental health problems	87
Social competence in adulthood	90
Biological decline and depression in older people	92
Discussion	96
To conclude	98
Questions	98
For discussion	99
Further reading	99
 6 The mental health professions	 100
Chapter overview	100
Theoretical frameworks in the sociology of the professions	101
The neo-Durkheimian framework	101
The neo-Weberian framework	102
Social closure	102
Professional dominance	102
The neo-Marxian framework	103
The poststructuralist framework	104
Mental health professionals and other social actors	105
Sociology and the mental health professions	107
Eclecticism	108
Poststructuralist accounts of the psy complex	109
The neo-Weberian approach	112
Symbolic interactionism	113
The influence of the sociology of deviance	113
The influence of the sociology of knowledge	114
The influence of feminist sociology	115

Discussion	115
To conclude	116
Questions	117
For discussion	117
Further reading	117
7 Questions of treatment	118
Chapter overview	118
Governmentality and therapy	119
Therapeutics	119
A brief social history of psychiatric treatment	119
Criticisms of psychiatric treatment	121
Why do physical treatments predominate?	121
Minor tranquillizers	123
Major tranquillizers	124
Antidepressants	127
Psychological therapies	127
Why is there a problem of legitimacy about the effectiveness of psychiatric treatment?	129
The moral sense of 'treatment'	130
Who is psychiatry's client?	130
The question of informed choice	131
Insight	131
The morality of others	133
Comprehensive and comprehensible information	133
Coercion	134
Specifiable actions	134
The social distribution of 'treatment'	135
The impact of evidence-based practice on treatment	136
Disputed evidence about EGT	136
Users' views as evidence in service research	137
Mental health promotion versus treatment	138
Discussion	139
To conclude	140
Questions	140
For discussion	141
Further reading	141
8 The organization of psychiatry	142
Chapter overview	142
The sociology of the hospital	143

Complexity	143
Specialized division of labour	143
Structure and command system	144
The rise of the asylum	144
The crisis of the asylum	147
Responses to the crisis	150
Therapeutic communities – 'humanizing' the hospital?	150
Deinstitutionalization	151
The 'pharmacological revolution'	152
Economic determinism	153
A shift to acute problems	154
A shift in psychiatric discourse	154
Community care or reinstitutionalization?	155
Public health, primary care and the new technology revolution	160
Discussion	161
In conclusion	163
Questions	163
For discussion	164
Further reading	164

9 Psychiatry and legal control 165

Chapter overview	165
Legal versus medical control of madness	166
Mentally disordered offenders	167
Compulsory and voluntary psychiatric admissions	171
Legal aspects of compulsion	172
Compulsory admission to hospital	172
Cross-national differences in mental health services	172
Italy	172
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	173
Japan	173
United States of America	173
Professional interests and legislation	173
Social workers	174
Psychiatric nurses	174
Discharge from hospital	175
Compulsory treatment	176
Compulsory community control	177
Dangerousness	180
Violence and mental disorder	180
Suicide	184
Impact on patients of their risky image	185
Discussion	186
In conclusion	187
Questions	188
For discussion	188
Further reading	188

10 Users of mental health services	189
Chapter overview	189
The diffuse concept of service use	190
The relatives of psychiatric patients	190
The user as patient	192
The disregarding by researchers of those users' views that do not coincide with the views of mental health professions	193
The notion that psychiatric patients are continually irrational and so incapable of giving a valid view	193
Patients and relatives are assumed to share the same perspective, and where they do not, the views of the former are disregarded by researchers	194
Framing patient views in terms which suit professionals	195
The user as consumer	196
Literature on psychiatric patient satisfaction and dissatisfaction	199
The user as survivor	200
The phenomenology of surviving the psychiatric system	201
Survivors as a new social movement	203
The user as provider	205
The mass media and psychiatric patients	205
The interest mediation role of the mass media	206
Negative image portrayal	206
Public psychological exploration	207
Discussion	208
In conclusion	208
Questions	208
For discussion	209
Further reading	210
References	232
Index	