

# MADNESS CONTESTED POWER AND PRACTICE



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## Madness Contested: Power and Practice

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Despite sustained criticisms from academia, survivor groups and practitioners, the bio-genetic model of madness prevails and therefore shapes our very notions of what madness is, who the mad are and how to respond. This dominant yet narrow view, at the heart of the psychiatric system, is misinformed and misleading.

Encompassing both academic analysis and practical application, *Madness Contested* brings together nurses, service users, psychiatrists, psychologists, practitioners and academics, who promote alternative ways to understand and approach madness. Their contributions debate questions such as: *What are the processes and forms of power involved in the current system? What interests are at play in maintaining dominant theories and practices? What are the alternative conceptualisations of madness? Can practice incorporate openness, modesty and a desire for equality?*

‘This impressive volume not only comprehensively critiques the simplistic, pessimistic medical model that dominates the mental health world, but provides an array of exciting exceptions and alternatives. A must-read for all interested in creating more effective, humane, evidence-based approaches to madness.’

*Professor John Read, Psychology Department, University of Auckland*

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