

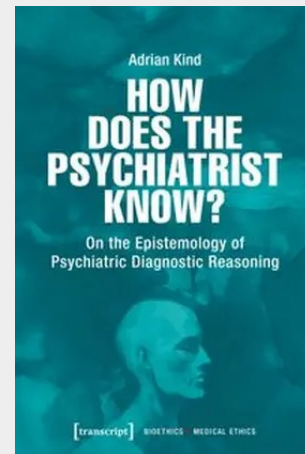
Kind

How Does the Psychiatrist Know?

On the Epistemology of Psychiatric Diagnostic Reasoning

How do clinical psychiatrists arrive at their diagnostic conclusions? Little attention has been directed to this question by philosophers of psychiatry. Adrian Kind presents a systematic, in-depth philosophical investigation into this question and argues that psychiatric diagnostic reasoning can be understood as a model-based reasoning procedure analogous to scientific model-based reasoning. To support this, he draws on ideas from the philosophy of science, psychiatry, cognitive science, and artificial intelligence. This study is an invaluable resource for practicing psychiatrists, philosophers interested in psychiatry, and researchers in artificial intelligence or cognitive science interested in medical cognition.

1. Why did you choose this topic? I was struck how little discussion there is about diagnostic practices in the philosophy of psychiatry, especially given how central diagnostic decisions are to treatment and potentially to patients' self-understanding. 2. What new perspectives does your book offer? I apply relevant insights from the general philosophy of science on modeling, medical cognition research, and selected ideas from AI to the topic of psychiatric diagnostic reasoning. The result is a uniquely interdisciplinary and detailed account aimed at providing a comprehensive understanding of the process of clinical psychiatric diagnostic reasoning - the first of its kind. 3. What makes your topic relevant for current research debates? The philosophy of psychiatry has long focused on questions regarding the nature of mental disorders and the structure of diagnostic systems. However, it has paid less attention to how conclusions about whether someone has a particular mental disorder are currently made. In this work, I present the first book-length, in-depth treatment of this topic, providing a highly relevant complement to existing debates and contributing to a systematic overview of the epistemology of psychiatry as a whole. 4. Choose one person you would like to discuss your book with! Peter Godfrey-Smith. 5. Your book summary in one sentence: Psychiatrists arrive at diagnostic conclusions through model-based inferential processes.



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