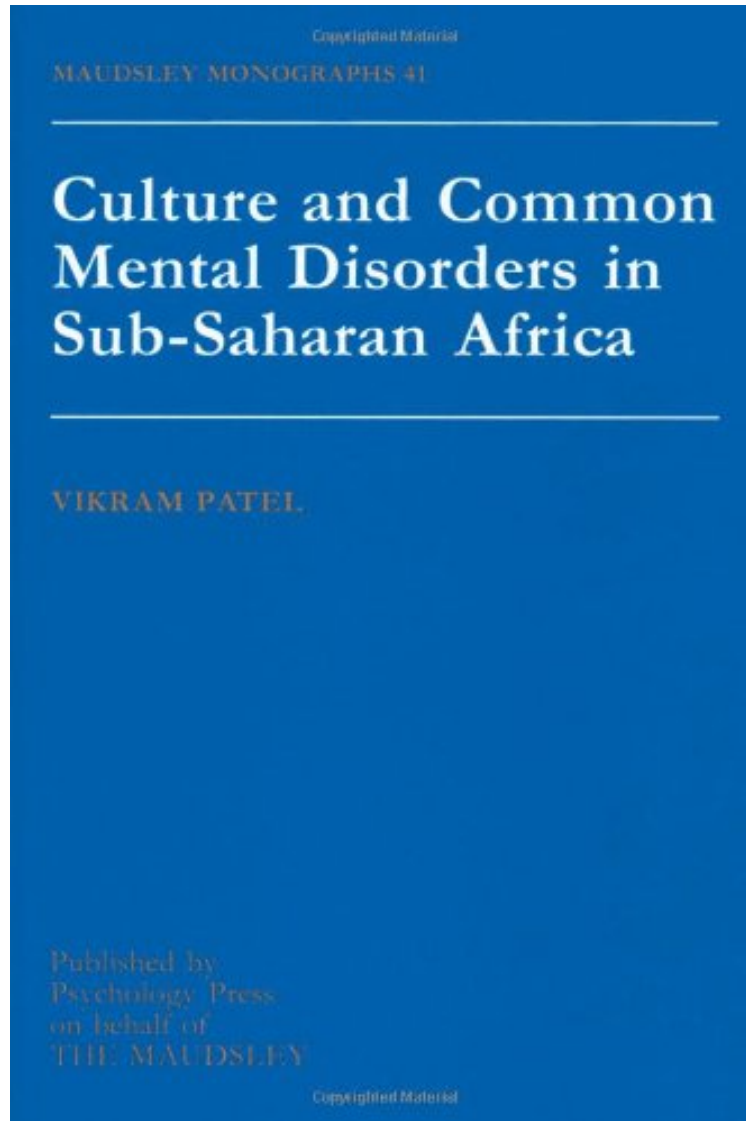



Culture And Common Mental Disorders In Sub-Saharan Africa (Maudsley Series)

Vickram Patel

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Vickram Patel : Culture And Common Mental Disorders In Sub-Saharan Africa (Maudsley Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Culture And Common Mental Disorders In Sub-Saharan Africa (Maudsley Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good beginningBy William GuriVickram Patel does a great job to present a conceptual framework for understanding mental health in Africa. The mainstream of mental health theories

are preponderately Western and often do not adequately represent the reality of mental health in Africa. An important component in African conceptions of both physical and mental health is spirit possession. More than simple superstition spiritual causality is a phenomenon worthy of the attention of health care givers. Patel's work opens an avenue for beginning to understand the significance of African spirituality in the whole of health. I recommend this book highly for those called to work in health in Africa and particularly for mental health care givers. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *Elegant cross-cultural psychiatric research* By Paul LindE If you are an anthropologist, sociologist, or physician interested in performing fieldwork and top-notch cross-cultural research, then Dr. Vikram Patel's book "Culture and Common Mental Disorders in Sub-Saharan Africa" is a must-read. The author explains in painstaking detail a lucid synthesis of his library research about mental disorders in Africa with truly elegant and meticulous field research that he conducted while practicing and teaching psychiatry in Harare, the capital city of Zimbabwe. Although much of the book is presented in technical research terminology, the summary and conclusions sections are clear and thought-provoking. Dr. Patel is truly a pioneer and trailblazer in doing cross-cultural psychiatric research, emulating and expanding on the work of the original guru of cross-cultural psychiatry, Dr. Arthur Kleinman. I recommend this book as a "can't miss" primer on cross-cultural research and psychiatric epidemiology.

The influence of culture on mental illness has been the subject of considerable academic investigation and debate in recent years. This debate has provoked concerns about the validity and reliability of older methodologies which emphasised either universal characteristics of disorders which were heavily biased towards Euro-American systems, or the culturally relativist approach which saw psychological disorders as products largely of their own culture. The "new" cross-cultural psychiatry proposed that the integration of ethnographic and epidemiological techniques be required to enable a culture sensitive psychiatric model to emerge. This monograph describes a series of research studies conducted in primary care in Harare, Zimbabwe, focusing on the most frequent of all psychological disorders, Common Mental Disorders (CMD). The four consecutive studies are unique in several respects, most notably, the involvement of both biomedical and traditional health care providers at all stages, the development of an indigenous measure of CMD for use in epidemiological investigations, the examination of the relationship between local and biomedical models of psychological disorder and the sociodemographic and economic risk factors for CMD. The experiences and findings of these studies provide new directions in our understanding of the contribution of culture to the presentation, assessment, classification and risk factors for CMD in primary care in an urban African setting. The methodology used also sets out a model for epidemiological research in other areas of mental health in different cultural settings.