



Psychiatry in Crisis: Epistemological and Ontological Concerns

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Abstract:

It is not merely a health crisis of resource scarcity or distribution, competing claims and practice models, or level of development from one country to another, but a deeper, more fundamental crisis about the very definition and the theoretical basis of psychiatry.

The kinds of questions that represent this crisis include whether psychiatry is a social science (like psychology or anthropology), whether it is better understood as part of the humanities (like philosophy, history and literature), or if the future of psychiatry is best assured as a branch of medicine (privileging genetics and neuroscience)? In fact, the question often debated since the beginning of modern psychiatry concerns the biomedical model so that part of psychiatry's perpetual self-questioning is to what extent it is or is not a branch of medicine.

From psychiatry in crisis as a medical discipline to critical psychiatry casting for a new model, what will be the result? Will it be the end of psychiatry or its renaissance as something new and different, either as a more comprehensive theory and practice of human being or as a new branch of medicine called the neuroscience?

Keywords

Biomedical Model, Theoretical Basis, Medical Discipline