

978-1-107-07068-4 - Parental Psychiatric Disorder: Distressed Parents and Their Families: Third Edition

Edited by Andrea Reupert, Darryl Maybery, Joanne Nicholson, Michael Göpfert and Mary V. Seeman Frontmatter

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Cambridge University Press

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107070684

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First published 1996

Second edition 2004

Third edition 2015

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Parental psychiatric disorder : distressed parents and their families / edited by Andrea Reupert, Darryl Maybery, Joanne Nicholson, Michael Göpfert, Mary V. Seeman. – Third edition.

p.; cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-07068-4 (hardback)

I. Reupert, Andrea, 1964-, editor. II. Maybery, Darryl, editor. III. Nicholson, Joanne, editor.

IV. Göpfert, Michael, 1947-, editor. V. Seeman, M. V. (Mary Violette), 1935-, editor.

[DNLM: 1. Mental Disorders - psychology. 2. Parents - psychology. 3. Child of Impaired

Parents – psychology. 4. Family Relations. 5. Mental Disorders – therapy. WM 140]

RC455.4.F3

616.89-dc23

2015001427

ISBN 978-1-107-07068-4 Hardback

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Preface

Mental illness is a family affair. When someone has a mental illness, his or her family are all affected, in particular the children in the family. While the adverse impact of parental mental illness on children is well documented, these outcomes are not inevitable. The aim of this book is to bring together leading researchers and practitioners to present their work in relation to families where a parent has a mental illness. Using various theoretical frameworks as a lens to understand the mechanisms of risk and adaptation in these families, the book examines the impact of different parental illnesses, such as schizophrenia, anxiety, depression, and personality disorder, on children and family relationships. The reciprocal nature of these family relationships is also appraised where caring for children and being in a family affect parents' well-being. Several innovative interventions are outlined which target children, parents, and families, including grandparents. While an evidence base for many interventions is still emerging, these chapters provide some guidance for practitioners in supporting families. Critical areas for further research and practice development are highlighted. In recognition that interventions are best delivered where there is strong organizational and community support, the book also presents implementation research where strategies that promote workforce and policy development are identified.

There have been many changes since the second edition, in terms of research but also practice and policy in different parts of the world. Only one chapter remains from the second edition, three chapters have been updated, and there are now thirty new chapters and author teams. These new chapters reflect the need for a theoretical framework to guide research and practice in this area. A culture-inclusive, developmental perspective and a recovery orientation run throughout this edition, which maintains the tradition of authentic clinical narratives and a focus on practice implications.