

Guía Latinoamericana de Diagnóstico Psiquiátrico (GLADP)

This new diagnostic guidebook, published by the Psychiatric Association of Latin America in 2004, is of special interest to transcultural psychiatry as it devotes considerable space to the cultural and ethnic aspects of mental disorders. Professor S.J. Villaseñor-Bayardo, University of Guadalajara, Mexico, member of the WPA Transcultural Psychiatry Section, was entrusted with the edition of this volume, to which many experts contributed; prominently among them Professor J.E. Mezzich of the WPA Secretariat.

In the introductory chapter, a section on "Latin American Ethnopsychiatry" informs the general psychiatrist on definitions of ethnomedicine, ethnopsychiatry, and folkloric medicine, and on maladies known in Latin America under traditional ethnic names; the authors conclude that the influence of Western rationalism has in Latin America not entirely replaced traditional ways of perceiving life, illness, and death. Another introductory section discusses old and new psychosocial problems of the continent, and closes with the demand that the works of well-known Latin American ethnologists and ethnopsychiatrists should be a fundamental part of medical school curricula.

The *GLADP* uses a diagnostic formulation consisting of four axes: I. Clinical Disorders; II. Disabilities; III. Contextual (contributing) Factors; IV. Quality of Life. In its diagnostic criteria and diagnostic codes, the *GLADP* follows the WHO International Classification of Diseases ICD-10. However, a "Latin American Annotation" is added to the diagnostic criteria of each disorder, informing on socio-cultural aspects peculiar to Latin American



culture areas. These annotations will be very useful to health professionals working in Latin America or among Latin American immigrant populations of Western countries. The insights of cultural psychiatry are also reflected in the diagnostic classification of dissociative disorders; among these are listed "Trance and Possession Disorders" (F44.3) with the important proviso that this refers only to involuntary and undesired states that occur outside accepted religious and cultural situations. Further categories noted are *Bouffé délirante* without schizophrenic symptoms (F23.0) and *Bouffé délirante* with schizophrenic symptoms (F23.1), and also "Neurasthenia" (F48.0). These conditions are not considered in like manner by the DSM-IV of the American Psychiatric Association, although they are prevalent in many culture areas besides Latin America. A glossary of psychiatric and colloquial terms and an extensive bibliography is appended.

Of particular interest to transcultural psychiatry is the separate chapter on Latin American Cultural Syndromes, authored by S.J. Villaseñor-Bayardo. He introduces the general psychiatrist to the concept of culture-bound syndromes with examples of these from other culture areas and then provides a detailed overview of cultural syndromes in the various regions of Latin America, with ethnic terminology and clinical descriptions,

also citing similar conditions known in other cultures. Tentative codes according to the ICD-10 are cautiously suggested for statistical purposes.

The Latin American Psychiatric Association's guide manual of psychiatric diagnoses surpasses the DSM-IV of the American Psychiatric Association as a comprehensive source of scholarly information on the socio-cultural aspects of psychiatric disorders. Transculturally oriented mental health professionals who can read Spanish texts, should not miss the opportunity to tap this source.

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