

Carlos Morra and Mateo Kreiker: General Psychopathology 8

Thomas A. Ban: General Psychopathology

Seminar 1. Definition, Scope and Boundaries

GENERAL PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

For Residents in Psychiatry

Eight Seminars

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DEFINITION: SCOPE AND BOUNDARIES

First Seminar

PLACE IN PSYCHIATRY

Two Major Disciplines which Serve as a Foundation for Modern Psychiatry

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

General Psychopathology

1. Pathology of subjective experiences
2. Pathology of objective performances
3. Symptoms and signs “create” illness

NOSOLOGY

Clinical Psychopathology

- Formation of disease entities
- Classification of disease entities
- Illness “creates” symptoms and signs

ROOTS

Descartes	1642	Dualism	Mind and Body
Stahl	1707	Animism	Soul (Psyche) Maintains the Functioning of the Body
Reil	1803	Mentalist tradition	Psychiaterie (Introduction of Term)
Heinroth	1818	Mentalist tradition	Psychiatrie (Psychiatry) (Discipline that Deals with Disorders which Result from Sin or Misdeed)
Feuchtersleben	1845	Mentalist tradition	Psychosis (Introduction of Term) Psychopathology (Introduction of Term)
Jaspers	1913	Mentalist tradition	General Psychopathology (Introduction of the Term)

DEFINITION

General Psychopathology is the Scientific Discipline that deals with the

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION

CONCEPTUALIZATION

of Symptoms and Signs which Occur in Psychiatric Disorders

ROLE

General Psychopathology Provides:

- 1. SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS WHICH ARE DETECTABLE**
Essential prerequisite for psychiatric clinical practice
- 2. SET OF CONCEPTS WHICH CAN BE COMMUNICATED TO OTHERS**
Essential prerequisite for psychiatric education and training
- 3. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK WHICH CAN BE REFERRED TO**
Essential prerequisite for psychiatric research

COMPONENTS

THE FOUR COMPONENT DISCIPLINES OF GENERAL PSYCHOPATHOLOGY:

1. PHENOMENOLOGY or SUBJECTIVE PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

Provides a concrete description of the psychic states experienced by the patient.

Presents these psychic states accessible for observation.

Renders (pathologic) psychic realities intelligible by concepts and provides a suitable terminology which can be communicated to others.

2. OBJECTIVE PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

Deals with observable performances and

Somatic (physical) accompaniments or consequences of psychic events.

3. UNDERSTANDING PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

Deals with meaningful connections and

Comprehensible relations.

4. EXPLANATORY PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

Deals with causal connections and

Causal explanations

(i.e., with findings by repeated experience that a number of phenomena are regularly linked together in a particular manner with another intrinsic or extrinsic factor).

RELATED DISCIPLINES

A closely related discipline to general psychopathology is
PATHOPSYCHOLOGY or **ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY**

PATHOPSYCHOLOGY

Abnormal Mental Phenomena are Perceived and Understood in Terms of Deviations from the Statistical Mean (Norm) Accepted as Normal for a Subject's Social Background

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

Pathological Mental Phenomena are Perceived and Understood in Terms of and Within the Frame of Reference of Patient's Mental Illness

PURPOSE OF PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

To Establish a Psychopathologic Symptom Profile on the Basis of:

PHENOMENOLOGIC EXPLORATION

&

OBJECTIVE PERFORMANCE TESTING

LIMITATIONS

of the practical usefulness of psychopathologic symptoms profiles prior to introduction of effective psychotropic drugs in treatment led to loss of interest in general psychopathology

DEVELOPMENT

of psychopharmacology and introduction of biochemical and neurophysiological instrumentation led to a better understanding about the biologic substrate of mental pathology and increasing acceptance that identification of psychopathologic symptoms and signs play a similar role in the diagnosis of mental illness as identification of signs and symptoms of other medical illness (Galen) led to a revival of interest in general psychopathology