

Her eyes and cheeks aflame...

This rich and detailed history of women's mental health and its treatment makes a fascinating read. The meticulously researched volume is arranged around case vignettes that illuminate topics fundamental to female mental distress,

including passions, childbearing, eating disorders and abuse.

Many fascinating cases are presented, beginning with that of Mary Lamb, who committed matricide in 1796. Another is that of Sabrina Spielrein, who was treated by C.G. Jung for 'psychotic hysteria', becoming his mistress and later pursuing a career as a fellow psychoanalyst. In a neat summation of transference and countertransference, Jung comments on a paper of Spielrein's: 'I have surely unintentionally swallowed a piece of your soul as well as you mine.' Elizabeth Wurtzel's more recent depiction of depression also features.

The book is equally a history of psychiatry, charting and dissecting the contributions made by key players. Some highlights include Charcot's exposition of hysteria via his

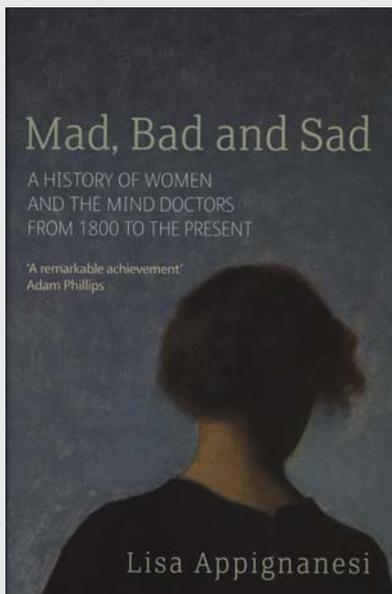
photographs of the patients in Salpêtrière in Paris and Kraepelin, the great classifier of mental disorder. Other notable contributions refer to the High Victorian alienism of Maudsley, whose misogynist degenerationist theories were influenced by Darwinian views and R.D. Laing and his anti-stigmatising, anti-psychiatry movement.

The book also raises many questions related to the influence of the pharmaceutical companies on modern psychiatric treatment, and the potential for standardised measures of distress to encourage as well as identify mental disorder. It is recommended reading for those interested in women's history, the evolution of psychiatry and cultural representations of mental distress.

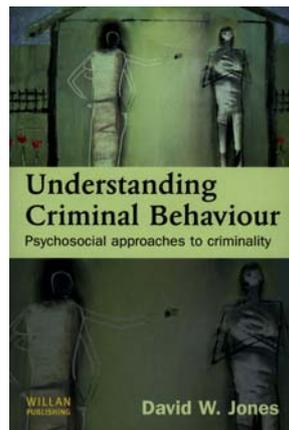
| *Virago; 2008; Hb £20.00*

Reviewed by Victoria Tischler

who is a lecturer in behavioural sciences at the University of Nottingham



Mad, Bad and Sad: A History of Women and the Mind Doctors from 1800 to the Present
Lisa Appignanesi



A psychosocial lens?

Understanding Criminal Behaviour: Psychosocial Approaches to Criminality
David W. Jones

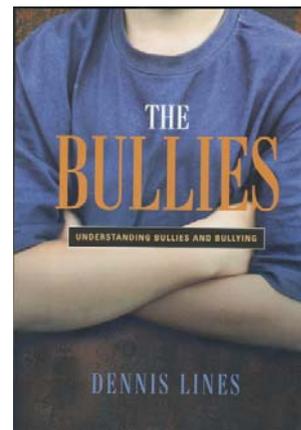
This is a timely book given the growth of psychosocial studies and the increasing political and cultural focus on criminality. Jones's book is both comprehensive and detailed in its outline of explanations of criminal behaviour, and Jones gives a convincing account of why psychological research has been increasingly omitted from criminological topics.

The book draws on a wealth of particularly non-experimental research to shed light on areas such as youth crime, mental illness and violence. As a general overview of what psychology and sociology can contribute to this area, this book is excellent.

However, the 'psychosocial' aspect remains underexplored, and the book tends to approach topics without fully engaging in debates about how a transcendence of these disciplinary boundaries might usefully inform debates in criminology. Apart from emphasising the role of emotions, there is little discussion of what a 'psychosocial' approach might look like. The chapter on 'gender and crime' ventures furthest, in its discussion of masculinities and identity, but this book perhaps too tentatively suggests 'amalgamations' between biology, development and culture without unpicking these complexities.

| *Willan; 2008; Pb £19.50*

Reviewed by Amanda Holt



Something to reflect on

The Bullies: Understanding Bullies and Bullying
Dennis Lines

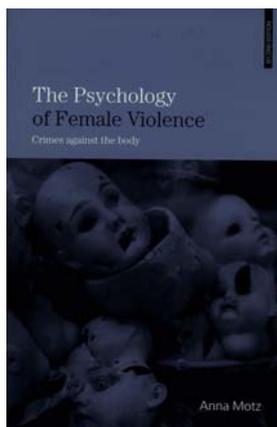
Dennis Lines's message, to view bullying as an activity rather than a personal characteristic, is not new. This has been a dominant approach to the study of bullying for the last decade. What made this book such a good read was how it pulled together a huge amount of research, from work on animal instincts and genetic influences on human behaviour, to psychoanalytic studies and transactional analysis. This is drawn into an easily understandable and interesting format, making it accessible to anyone with a curiosity about human relationships.

I particularly appreciated Lines's interpretation of the bullying interaction, not by demonising and labelling individuals but considering the relationship between 'bully', 'victim' and context. Here the book discusses the cycle of bullying, and thus may also be of interest to those professionals who have to judge and discipline those found bullying.

The chapters on domestic violence and bullying in different workplaces extend the study of bullying beyond child and adolescent relationships, to recognising it as occurring in all contexts. There is something here that we can all associate with and reflect on.

| *Jessica Kingsley; 2008; Pb £16.99*

Reviewed by Hannah Boyd



Violent communication

The Psychology of Female Violence: Crimes Against the Body (2nd edn)
Anna Motz

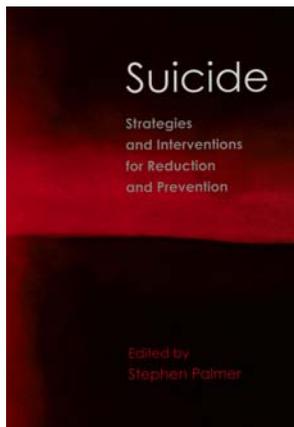
What motivates a mother to abuse or even kill her child, or a woman to mutilate her own body? According to Anna Motz, profound and complex psychological distress both defended against and expressed through these perverse and violent acts. They thus become powerful tools and weapons of communication.

Using forensic psychodynamic theory, Anna Motz attempts to decipher the violent language of women who abuse their children or themselves, or kill their violent intimate partners. The focus is on the inner world of [some] violent women and the psychological complexities of their acts.

This second edition has been thoughtfully updated with more material on violence against children and a new chapter on working clinically with violent women. Each chapter is clearly introduced and the language personal and engaging. Powerful case examples from the author's own clinical practice are discussed and carefully analysed.

A key message of this book is that, if we want to understand and prevent female violence we have to stop pathologising and excusing it and start to fully acknowledge female agency and aggression.

! *Routledge; 2008; Pb £19.99*
Reviewed by Mette Kreis



Extremely practical

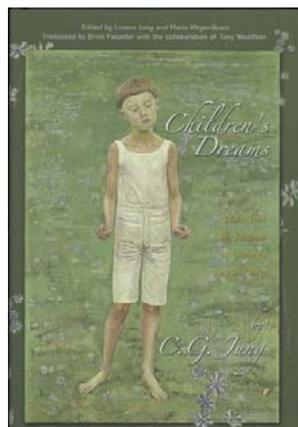
Suicide: Strategies and Interventions for Reduction and Prevention
Stephen Palmer (Ed.)

For anyone working in mental health care, preventing suicidal behaviour is not only a professional duty but often a source of great personal anxiety. Stephen Palmer's book is a welcome and compassionate attempt to increase practitioners' understanding and confidence, as well as their clinical skill.

It begins with an overview of some statistics and theories of suicide, the former being far more interesting and useful than it might sound. Three chapters tell the stories of people personally affected by suicides, including one woman's honest and revealing account of her own suicide attempt. The book then covers a range of individual and group therapeutic approaches to preventing suicide or supporting those affected by it. One of its strengths is the repeated consideration of the personal impact on therapists of working with suicidal clients. These chapters draw heavily on clinical material and most are extremely practical.

As with any edited book, the quality of the writing varies, but the content is well chosen and presented, making this a valuable resource for clinical practice.

! *Taylor & Francis; 2008; Pb £19.99*
Reviewed by Emma Taylor



Continuing relevance

Children's Dreams: Notes from the Seminar Given in 1936-1940 by C.G. Jung
Lorenz Jung & Maria Meyer-Grass (Eds.)

Newly published in English, this text gives us an opportunity to see Jung's seminar method in action with some of his best known students. More importantly, this text reminds us that Jung did indeed have ideas about working with children and not just about adults reaching middle-age. As psychologists, we are also challenged to consider our views on the dynamics of conscious and unconscious processes, which are fundamental to Jung's theory of dreaming. In contrast to more familiar associative and reductive approaches, Jung's radical, inductive approach amplifies images by reference to cultural symbols contained in myth and story.

In the introductory section, Jung gives an outline of his approach to problems of cause and correlation and of how dreams are unintentional

products of dynamic unconscious processes. This is as good an introduction as may be found.

Later sections are devoted to the material of the seminars, arising out of childhood dreams. These discussions are concerned with amplifying by example the ideas presented in the introduction. In this way, the text is concerned more with developmental issues, an 'ethnopsychology' as Jung calls the undertaking, rather than with direct clinical technique with children.

It is extraordinary how many of the observations Jung makes in this pre-war period foreshadow the theoretical issues still current in psychology and phenomenology today. But these observations are presented in ways that should make us look from a new vantage point at our current assumptions, and that is the essential relevance of this text today.

! *Princeton University Press; 2008; Hb £23.95*
Reviewed by Ralph Goldstein

just in

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Voltaire's Tormented Soul: A Psychobiographic Enquiry

Alexander J. Nemeth

Intimacy, Transcendence and Psychology Steen Halling

Artificial Psychology: The Quest for What It Means to Be Human Jay Friedenburg

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