

Summary of Key Criticisms of Psychiatry: The Anti-Psychiatry Movement

- Medicalisation through the application of psychiatric diagnosis to understandable human reactions to particular situations
- Through the misuse of 'science' and positivist enquiry, exclusion of other approaches to responding to mental health distress
- Imbalance of power between practitioner and patient, with the patient's voice often dismissed as another aspect of their pathology
- Use of psychiatric diagnosis to control and manage particular social groups (e.g., gays and lesbians)
- Diagnosis based on ill-informed 'science' where the subjectivity of the diagnostician is masked by the apparent objectivity of the diagnostic principle
- Profound stigmatising of psychiatric diagnosis
- Underlying control of psychiatry by pharmaceutical companies with a vested interest in the perpetuation of the illness model of human experience.