A Short Antipsychiatry Bibliography – Selected and Annotated Sources
compiled by Don Weitz

This dissident psychiatrist launches a serious attack on biological psychiatry, exposes the fraud of psychiatric diagnostic labels, particularly “schizophrenia”, and many abuses in medication and electroshock.

A powerful critique of psychiatric treatment and brilliant discussion of the brain-disabling hypothesis to explain how the drugs and electroshock ‘work’.

A powerful collection of survivor accounts of psychiatric abuses and resistance in Canada by over 30 psychiatric survivors. A damning critique of psychiatry by the editors, a feminist academic and psychiatric survivor-activist--the first antipsychiatry anthology work published in Canada.

A critical analysis of women’s psychological issues and counselling from feminist and anti-oppression perspectives; includes a chapter on psychiatry as “fundamentally problematic.”

A feminist and political analysis of electroshock as violence – a brilliant deconstruction of this psychiatric “treatment” that mainly targets women.

A comprehensive critique of electroshock (‘ECT’) informed by a feminist analysis. Dr. Burstow is the only health professional and academic in Canada to publicly condemn and call for a total ban on this allegedly “safe and effective treatment.”

A psychologist and feminist exposes the patriarchy, sexism, elitism and secrecy surrounding the production of psychiatric diagnoses, including the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. (DSM).

A strong critique of mental health ideology, paternalism and professionalism and strong advocacy of peer-run grassroots organizations. A movement classic by this legendary survivor-advocate and leader in the psychiatric survivor movement


A more recent and comprehensive critique of electroshock with many additional quotations and fully cited references. A greatly expanded and substantial revision of Frank’s History of Shock Treatment. Available only online
A humanistic sociologist deconstructs mental hospitals as dehumanizing ‘total institutions’ or psychiatric prisons. The chapter “The Moral Career of the Mental Patient” is a chilling analysis of stigma and destroyed identity.


Two social scientists and health critics expose psychiatric diagnoses in psychiatry’s fourth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) as unscientific, invalid, and harmful in its effects on people’s lives - a form of character assassination.

A powerful, well-documented expose of psychiatric atrocities in both countries, a list of psychiatrists by name and institution who were complicit, a chapter on movement resistance including concise reports of the International Conferences on Human Rights and Psychiatric Oppression (1976-1984), and a list of Psychiatric Inmate Liberation/Antipsychiatry groups – one of the most radical works published. (Available from MindFreedom- [http://mindfreedom.org](http://mindfreedom.org))

(see Don Weitz “Phoenix Rising: Its Birth and Death”)

A collection of personal accounts of psychiatric abuse, trauma and survivor resistance in Canada, based on the author’s interviews with many psychiatric survivor-activists.


A devastating critique of psychiatric dogma and fraud, “inventing” mental illness

Another analysis in which Szasz asserts that force as social control – not humane treatment or concern for the health and well-being of patients - is what really drives diagnosis and forced intervention throughout psychiatry’s history.

A tribute to and look back at the critical successes of Phoenix Rising, the first and only antipsychiatry magazine in Canada collectively edited and controlled by psychiatric survivors during a 10-year period (1980-1990). This article summarizes several major issues and priorities including personal stories of psychiatric abuse, accounts of legal victories, essays and other critiques of the “mental health” system, survivor testimony against electroshock, critical articles of drug deaths and inquests, government cover-ups, book reviews, art, and letters to the editor.
A critical discussion of some major violations of people’s human rights (torture) in psychiatry-electroshock (‘ECT’), forced drugging, solitary confinement (“seclusion”), physical restraints, involuntary committal (preventive detention), and community treatment orders.

A follow-up to Whitaker’s critically acclaimed Mad in America (2002), this book documents with an awesome amount of medical-scientific evidence of "this plague of disabling mental illness" in the United States. As investigative journalism, the book exposes the active and unethical roles of Big Pharma (multinational drug corporations) and organized psychiatry (American Psychiatric Association) in manufacturing new types of “mental illness” (e.g., “bipolar”, ADHD”), especially among millions of vulnerable children, and promoting damaging drugs that cause emotional and physical trauma and neurological disorders.