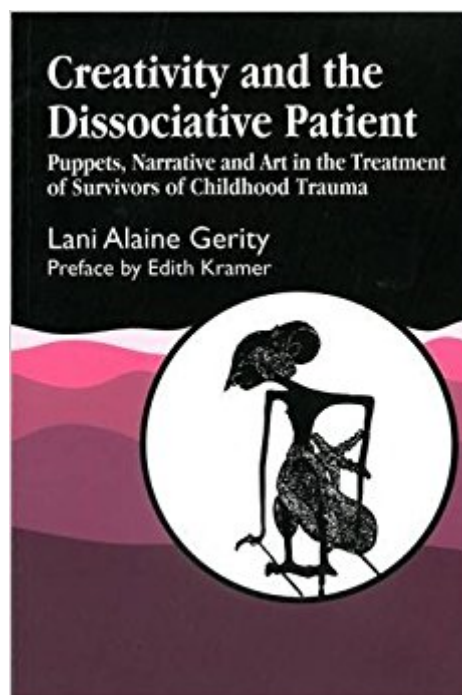




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Creativity And The Dissociative Patient: Puppets, Narrative And Art In The Treatment Of Survivors Of Childhood Trauma



Synopsis

Lani Gerity shows in this book that puppet-making, incorporating both art and narrative, provides an ideal vehicle for therapeutic work. It is particularly valuable in the treatment of dissociative patients, whose symptoms may include disturbances in body image, a dissociated sense of self, a disrupted sense of history and causality, and a feeling of alienation from the self. Lani Gerity explores the application of this in the context of object relations theory. She shows the creative process working on many levels for dissociative individuals and groups. Making puppets, three-dimensional representations of the human body, helped one patient to integrate her sense of her body image and herself. Using puppets and creating narratives about them encourages patients to build communities and to release themselves from the hold of the trauma of their pasts. Descriptions and analyses of Gerity's work with dissociative patients in the US and Canada is underpinned by a theoretical framework which encompasses theories from the arts therapies and from psychiatry.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author makes an excellent case for the study of puppetry as a transitional object to help clients work through feelings of personal trauma. -- OTPLD Newsletter

The author makes an excellent case for the study of puppetry as a transitional object to help clients work through feelings of personal trauma. (OTPLD Newsletter)

I highly recommend this book to anyone who has the slightest interest in multiple personality disorder, art therapy, puppetry, psychiatry, object relations theory, story telling or mental illness in general. Through Jenny's story Gerity simultaneously gives a fascinating accurate account of patient care in a mental health facility while also educating the reader about the various psychological theories that staff utilize for treatment. This book was a pleasure to read and would be enjoyable for everyone but I think it should be mandatory reading for anyone who works with the mentally ill population.

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