

Previously presented as “How do the ‘mentally ill’ view mental illness?”

Dr Trish Frazer. Email: patricia.frazer@dbs.ie

Proposed Research:

*The meanings attached to
the phrase ‘Mental Illness’
amongst those who
experience it*



What is Mental Illness/Disorder?

➤ Whatever the scientists say...

“... although this manual provides a classification of mental disorders, it must be admitted that no definition adequately specifies precise boundaries for the concept of ‘mental disorder.’”

(APA, 2000)



What is Mental Illness/Disorder?

- What the DSM says it is
- We don't know



The DSM, DSM-IV-TR

- *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*
 - *5th Revision*
 - *Controversy*
- 

Expansion and Over-diagnosis

➤ CRITICISM

Allen Frances



Robert Spitzer



➤ Thomas Insel (NIMH)

➤ British Psychological Society (BPS)

What is the alternative?

➤ ??????????????



Let's ask them...

- 26.2% of Americans (Kessler, Chiu, Demler & Walters, 2005)
- 27% Europeans (WHO, 2013)

The Proposal

- Consult those with 'mental disorders'
- Qualitative approach
- Add to public debate through publication



ISSUES

- Defining the sample?
 - Accessing the sample?
 - ethics
 - The questions?
 - The analysis?
- 

References

- American Psychiatric Association. (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (4th ed., text rev.). Washington, DC: Author.
- BPS (2011) Response to the American Psychiatric Association: DSM-5 Development. Retrieved from <http://apps.bps.org.uk/publicationfiles/consultation-responses/DSM-5%202011%20-%20BPS%20response.pdf>
- Insel, T. (2013) Transforming Diagnosis [Blog Post]. April 29th <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/index.shtml>
- Kessler, R.C., Chiu, W.T., Demler, O. Walters, E.E. (2005) Prevalence, severity, and comorbidity of twelve-month DSM-IV disorders in the National Comorbidity Survey Replication (NCS-R). *Archives of General Psychiatry* 62(6):617-27
- WHO (2013) Facts and Figures: Prevalence of Mental Disorders. Retrieved from <http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/noncommunicable-diseases/mental-health/facts-and-figures>