1-1-1991

AIDS and the Allied Health Professions / The Psychological Aspects of AIDS: An Annotated Bibliography

C. Allen Haney

University of Houston

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play with it; try never to repeat yourself exactly” (224). Straus’s innovative key tactics encourage the reader to be equally creative in his/her performance.

A problem for even the most dedicated reader may be the time-consuming nature of most of the exercises, coupled with the frequency with which they occur. A great many of the exercises require either visualization, journal writing, or both. The fifth chapter, for example, includes ten exercises, along with creative self-hypnosis strategies. These can take hours, depending on the individual. Furthermore, Straus suggests that to gain the most benefit from the book, one should repeat the exercises. Persons desiring a self-help program for problems such as impatience, inability to complete tasks, or procrastination, will be put off by Straus’s book before they begin to learn the strategies necessary to combat their problem(s).

In spite of the difficulty some readers may have in working on all the exercises, their diversity and number offer readers, whose needs may differ, a variety of choices. And, as previously mentioned, the volume is designed so that the reader may pick and choose those exercises that meet his/her needs.

The sociological theory contained in Straus’s book lends itself well to an understanding of the practical strategies he suggests. It is my belief that the strategies in Creative Self-Hypnosis, when applied with some consistency, can lead to positive change in the quality of one’s life. This book is innovative, optimistic and original in its approach to empowerment.


C. Allen Haney
University of Houston

These two very different works have in common a concern with AIDS. Each, however, was designed to serve markedly different purposes. The first, AIDS and the Allied Health Professions is a collection of eleven chapters, each designed to give, in overview fashion, the necessary information to prepare and advise those in the health professions of the challenges, difficulties, and precautions to be encountered in the treatment of persons with AIDS and related diseases. Perhaps more importantly, this book sets forth the presently recommended techniques for the safety and comfort of patients and professionals alike. Chapters are, of necessity, relatively brief, easily understandable, and accurate as far as they go, taking into account the fact that each chapter addresses a topic that could
easily require a book-length manuscript. Of value is the fact that each chapter begins with a statement of the learning objectives and addresses each of these objectives. There is a good deal of unevenness in the writing style and scope of the chapters. Regrettably, one of the weakest of the chapters is that which deals with the psychosocial aspects of AIDS. Perhaps this material could have been better presented if separate chapters on psychological and sociological aspects of AIDS had been addressed. This would not necessarily have added more than thirty to thirty-five pages to the work.

It is unlikely that this work would be the sole text for a course. It would, however, make an excellent supplement to a course dealing with psychosocial aspects of health care and health care services. It would serve as a valuable text for a "short course" or a continuing education course as a self-contained topic.

The second work, *The Psychosocial Aspects of AIDS: An Annotated Bibliography*, is an extremely accurate, comprehensive, and valuable research tool. This is particularly true for the scholar just beginning to conduct research in this area. The six sections are well organized and apparently thorough. Clearly, a work such as this that deals with a phenomenon about which so much research is ongoing is destined to become dated almost before the ink is dry. Nevertheless, this work can be of tremendous value in bringing the researcher "up to speed" in this voluminous and rapidly expanding literature.

Of the works with which I am familiar and from reviewing a sample of the citations with which I was not familiar, the citations were accurate and, perhaps more importantly, the annotations rightly described the content and context of the work, even if the author(s) used titles that did not. It would have been of greater value if the list of bibliographic data bases used had been included and if "key words" used in computer searches for compiling this bibliography had been included.


*Anthony J. Riech*
*California State University, San Bernardino*

This is a story of a social scientist coming of age. It tells of Guillermo Grenier's experiences at the Ethicon subsidiary of the Johnson and Johnson Company in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Grenier's experiences took place during a nine-month period while he was an unpaid graduate assistant to Ethicon-Albuquerque's social psychologist. Grenier's objective was to collect data for his graduate research on teams in the work force, which is how Ethicon-Albuquerque