

(‘Critical Reflections’) anticipates and addresses the usual objections to narrative psychiatry because it is sometimes considered as ‘Old Hat’ (p. 161), being ‘too broad’ (p. 163), ‘not practical’ (p. 166), or in some cases opponents consider biopsychiatry and neuroscience as reductive (p. 168).

A cutting edge analysis, *Narrative Psychiatry* should not be seen as being totally opposed to traditional psychiatry approaches. It is not a biting critique made by a mere outsider: on the contrary, it proposes a better understanding of what patients have to say, hide and express. Even for professionals or scholars who have no interest in narrative psychiatry, this book will be interesting and rewarding since it gathers many timely thoughts, ideas and debates about science, knowledge, and epistemology; for instance, should we say that ‘science *discovers the world*’, or that ‘science *constructs the world*’? (p. 149).

Clearly an original and important contribution, Professor Bradley Lewis’s book is engaging and inspiring, clearly written and without any obscure jargon. It is obvious that the author had been carefully preparing this project for years. Although it is not in any sense a casual reading, undergraduates and non-academics could follow this demonstration. In sum, *Narrative Psychiatry* will surely inspire psychiatrists (and not only those who oppose to biopsychiatry), but also doctors, clinicians, psychologists, even philosophers, and people working in the health sector. Furthermore, Bradley Lewis has produced here a unique and impressive demonstration of a possible interdisciplinary bridge between sciences and humanities. Of course, because there are not many titles located at this intersection of disciplines, university libraries should own this original and rare book.

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Annette F. Timm, *The Politics of Fertility in Twentieth Century Berlin* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), 374 pages, \$99, hardcover, ISBN: 9780521195393.

Population policy, eugenics and welfare have moved from the margins to mainstream issues in modern German history. The issues of births, welfare, sexually transmitted diseases and contraception became highly charged political issues around 1900, and thenceforth this mindset has exerted considerable force on family policy and welfare in successive eras. There is also a darker side as regards eugenics and sterilisation, culminating in Nazi racial policies. Nowhere is this more true than in Berlin, a city that has itself undergone immense upheavals in terms of population and politics. Timm’s book is mainly pitched at the level of ideology, the public discourse on sexually transmitted diseases, and – to a lesser extent – the provision of contraception. Berlin provides a context and setting for the impact of the fear of a declining population. The city is seen as a hotbed of progressive culture from the culturally and politically vibrant Berlin of the 1920s until the divided city of the 1960s.

The medical discourse long focused on a ‘sterile Berlin’, as a city unable to replenish its population stocks, and as a city of inward migration. Timm’s concern is less at the level of population and patients, and more at a higher political and administrative level. On the whole we have a rather top-down analysis using central state archives,

rather than one based on the reconstruction of the sexual advice centres and sexually transmitted disease clinics as regards their clientele, and the involved lay and professional groups. The analysis is pitched at the level of the city as a whole, rather than one based on the distinctive political and social identities of a district by district anatomy of the metropolis. The translation of Adolf Gottstein from medical officer in Charlottenburg to Prussian Ministerial Director might have been considered among other local/ federal state interactions. Timm is more at ease with policy rather than actual reproductive and sexual behaviour.

The analysis of Nazi Berlin provides the author with greater scope. Those sterilised were assisted in finding other sterilised partners, although groups subject to persecution such as Jews and Roma might have found their place in the analytical framework. The study divides into population and family policy, and the control of sexually transmitted diseases with some details on contraception in Nazi Germany. The book comes into its own with the immensely useful sections on post-World War II Germany. One is that of the status of the sterilisation law of 1933. The effects of the impact of the Berlin Wall on sexually transmitted diseases is fascinating in indicating that the political repression of the German Democratic Republic facilitated effective disease control. Overall, this is a study that gains in strength as it unfolds. There is an index but no bibliography.

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Sachiko Kusakawa, *Picturing the Book of Nature: Image, Text, and Argument in Sixteenth-Century Human Anatomy and Medical Botany* (Chicago, IL, and London: University of Chicago Press, 2012), pp. xvii, 331, \$45.00, hardback, ISBN 13:978-0-226-46529-6.

Beautifully illustrated, this remarkable study constitutes a major step forward in understanding the world of medicine and natural history in the sixteenth century. It concentrates on three authors and their works: Leonhart Fuchs and his *De historia stirpium* of 1542; Andreas Vesalius and his *De humani corporis fabrica* of 1543; and, to a lesser extent, Conrad Gessner and his unpublished *Historia plantarum*. All three works are rightly seen as marking a major shift in the representation of the natural world by their use of images, to say nothing of the sheer beauty of their execution. But they are here viewed against a detailed background of other naturalists, derived from two decades of close involvement with the books themselves in libraries across the world. This is no compilation from catalogues, but this shows the benefits that can be gained by examining individual copies, their annotations, their formats, and their state of preservation.

Dr Kusakawa lucidly demonstrates how these (and other authors) wrestled with the problems of representation. They were among the first to link the verbal and visual together in a single argument, and to move away from using illustrations simply for mnemonic purposes. They were faced with epistemological questions. How far can (or should) an image represent an individual flower? What is a 'living' image? How can a single image convey the complexity of one object that, as with a plant, changed over time? How can a two-dimensional image on the printed page give a sense of the complexity of a three-dimensional object? How can shading indicate the texture of a bone or a leaf? Some of Dr Kusakawa's answers to these questions are not new, but her overall understanding of the