

Although this is a historical chronology, and some may wonder how germane the topic is to current social work issues, I would argue that the issues are unfortunately all too pertinent to contemporary social welfare concerns. With the conservative political arena which has reigned in our country since 1980 and the sweeping cuts in social services from the federal, state, county and local levels, it behooves all those in social services to be apprised of the strengths and limitations of the welfare rights movements. Both numbers and percentages of poor in our country are rising. These persons often have no voice and feel helpless against the enormous machine of the bureaucracy. Social service workers likewise feel like pawns in a cumbersome, often unfair, system. The lessons learned from the welfare rights movements of the sixties can teach us anew about the power of numbers, the worth of organizations at the grass roots levels and the responsibility of professionals to assist in the empowerment of their clients. The author notes that the primary shortcomings of the B-WAC were a lack of continual evaluation of program outcomes and the inability of the organizers to articulate long-term goals, to develop long-term plans of action and to implement programs that promote indigenous leadership in the grass roots movements. Contemporary social service professionals committed to client advocacy will be simultaneously forewarned of the pitfalls of grass root organizing and inspired by the strengths and capabilities of the grass roots movement model after reading this book.

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Felicisima C. Serafica, Andrew I. Schwebel, Richard K. Russell, Paul D. Isaac, and Linda B. Myers, eds. *Mental Health of Ethnic Minorities*. (New York: Praeger, 1990) xiii, 344 pp, \$59.50.

This edited collection is based on papers presented at a conference held at Ohio State University (1986), entitled *Minority Mental Health: A Multicultural Knowledge Base for Psychological Providers*. The chapters included in the book are expanded versions of the themes covered in the conference. This excellent book is a welcome entry into the ever-expanding field of psychology known variously as minority mental health, cross-cultural counseling, and multicultural counseling and psychotherapy. It is a field that has grown considerably in the last two decades, as counselors, psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, and other mental health providers and researchers have attempted to understand the complex role that race and ethnicity play in the counseling and psychotherapeutic process. It is a complex and controversial field, and one that doesn't fail to attract criticism as well as a growing number of dedicated proponents. It is likely, according to Paul Pedersen,

that the current trend toward multicultural awareness among counselors will have as great an impact on the helping professions in the next decade as Roger's "third force" of humanism had on the prevailing psychodynamic and behavioral systems.

In an effort to present an ethnically balanced perspective, each section, except for the last one, contains one chapter for each of the three major ethnic minority groups (largest and most visible groups) in Ohio at the time of the conference: African American, Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific American. Each chapter is representative of the "state of the art" in that each provides a thorough review of the current research literature in the particular subspecialty of theme covered by each contributor. On the whole, the contributions are representative of an interesting blend of very specific research efforts and a more generalized and sometimes historical approach to the research, clinical challenges, and professional standards, practices, and requirements in minority mental health. The four parts of the collection include the following themes: (I) Mental Health Problems and Perspectives of Ethnic Minorities; (II) Advances in Assessment; (III) Advances in Treatment; (IV) University, Professional Association, and Government Roles in Promoting Ethnic Minority Mental Health.

The research included in this book and in the emerging literature on minority mental health, according to Myers, seems to be moving beyond the descriptive stage and is now increasingly concerning itself with "explanation and prediction." Some of the chapters in the first section, she suggests, "indicate an interest in theory building." Growing interest in cross-cultural counseling has generated a wide ranging, though sometimes disparate, body of literature which does not seem to be founded on a more commonly shared general theoretical construct. The suggestion, therefore, that there is some movement towards theory building in this relatively new field of psychology comes as welcome news. Controversy and resistance continue to surround the field, and the need for vigilance remains paramount, even after the significant "successes of recent years," suggests Schwebel.

The chapters on assessment are an ideal source for familiarizing the prospective counselor with information about the pitfalls of testing and interpretation of standardized instruments administered to ethnic minority populations. Test construction, test bias, interpretative bias in scoring and in comparing test results across ethnic groups are discussed, and excellent recommendations are put forth in each of the chapters in this section. Janet E. Helms, in the "Advances in Treatment" section, takes a close look at the research literature on counseling and psychotherapy with "visible/racial ethnic groups (VREG)." She focuses on the counseling dyad with the VREG client and how the research, which Helms organizes into three distinct perspectives, has shaped our perceptions of client and therapist-centered "problems." Helms suggests that each of these perspectives imposes a distinct set of problem-solving strategies—as seen in recommendations for counseling—for which there may not be any supporting empirical evidence. In other words, great care should be taken when counseling techniques or approaches are recommended for specific ethnic populations.

Helms's carefully constructed critique of the literature is typical of the high level of scholarship one finds in the work of all of the book's contributors. While this reviewer agrees with the editors' suggestion that the book can be used as a text for a graduate level course on ethnic minority mental health, the degree of sophistication of these articles may not make it appropriate for upper-level undergraduates, as they suggest. This book can also be paired with other, more general, introductory or survey texts currently being used in the field which might reflect other perspectives on these issues, thereby giving the student a sense of how really broad and diverse this field has become. For example, while the chapter focusing on the historical development of the field, as traced through the American Psychological Association (APA), was excellent, it could also give the unsophisticated reader the erroneous impression that the APA was the only professional association making significant contributions to this newly emerging area in psychology.

The Ethnic Minority Mental Health Training chapter offers important criteria for the development of training models in the university curriculum. Again, the focus is primarily on psychology and the training of psychologists in APA approved programs, but the recommendations can be easily applied to training programs in counseling, social work, and other specializations in mental health and in human services. Training models for preparation in this area are only now beginning to surface, but much more work needs to be done. The training of counselors, psychologists, and other human services practitioners will more than likely reflect the great diversity that currently exists in the research literature. Our training models will also mirror how we define the field, its boundaries, underlying philosophy, and practice. Will it become a separate field or specialization, or will it change the face of what we now identify as mainstream counseling and psychotherapy? Regardless of where this nascent field of study and practice takes us, this book should be considered required reading for the student of culture, race, ethnicity and psychology.

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Ann Allen Shockley, ed. *Afro-American Women Writers: 1746-1933. An Anthology and Critical Guide.* (New York: New American Library, 1988) 465 pp., \$14.95 paper.

Despite almost four hundred years of racism, sexism and classism, Afro-American women have managed to sustain contact with their creative muses and with the needs and aspirations of their people. Frequently, these creative and activist women have been neglected by both Euro-American and Afro-American male critics. Additionally, with few exceptions these women writ-