

Sanity, Madness <sup>and</sup> the Federal Incentives to Industry Program

- a) Sanity, Madness and The Family, by R. D. Laing and A. Esterson, Pelican, Paper, 282 pp.
- b) "Federal Incentives to Industry," a booklet in The Series, Doing Business in Canada, by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

The family is the medium through which society <sup>indoctrinated</sup> transmits its values. <sup>where</sup> of the values of a given society are insane, the family's function is to drive its children crazy. <sup>it is</sup> When successful, the children of successful families produce functionally crazy children. They grow up and manage to cope with overwhelming social contradictions, to deny the meaninglessness of their lives, jobs, marriages, goals & achievements. In unsuccessful families, where children <sup>do not</sup> capitulate to the absurd demands of parents & society.

Krohn's S, M + the F is a landmark in the decline of psychiatry. <sup>possessing</sup> It describes the ~~pathetic~~ lives <sup>chronically hospitalized chronic</sup> of eleven mental patients -- all women and all diagnosed schizophrenics -- and of their families. <sup>TP</sup> Schizophrenia is a form of extreme mental anguish. <sup>It is</sup>, as L + E demonstrate, the result of social and political <sup>carries</sup> transmitted through the family. <sup>fragment</sup> This fairly obvious conclusion -- that mental anguish arises from problems in one's most intimate social relationships --

Honey  
women's lib  
Brown study  
struggle b2 families + psys

is denied by modern psychiatry.

Sch is the disease whose cause is unknown unless he can prove otherwise

Schizophrenia means literally "split mind," or "mind split off from reality" (not split personality). Insofar as the family and psychiatry both promote the same conservative tradition -- the established <sup>social</sup> reality -- one would expect them to team up against those who subscribe to a different view of reality, in this case schizophrenics. In fact, psychiatrists very rarely even contact the patient's relatives. This collusion is evident in all eleven cases in the book. There is a conspiracy in outlook between the patient's family and the psychiatric staff. The conspiracy runs something like this: Our view of reality is correct, hers is wrong, we do not understand her view of reality. It is incomprehensible, it is the result of an illness, <sup>that we can't understand</sup> it must be changed, if necessary against her will (it's usually necessary).

The effect of the <sup>collusion</sup> conspiracy is to mystify the patient's experiences, to turn them into a medical entity whose cause (certainly not the family) and cure are unknown. (The ~~average~~ "schizophrenic" will spend, on the average, thirteen years in mental hospitals.) The whole arsenal of <sup>antagonist</sup> psychiatric jargon is invoked to deny the reasonableness + validity of the "patient's" perceptions. Hard as it is to believe, psychiatrists <sup>almost never get in touch with</sup> hardly ever contact the patient's relatives, as they had not in the eleven families contacted the eleven families in this book before Laming + Esterson did so.

The authors set out to make madness intelligible by locating its roots in the insane demands, restrictions and goals imposed by the family. In so doing, they expose the cruel and oppressive role of psychiatry in reinforcing these impositions. The patient is confronted with a chorus of voices affirming her craziness. Her objections constitute further evidence of illness.

Time after time we see how the concept of illness is used to confuse + mystify people who are struggling to ~~assert their~~ find ~~themselves~~ + assert themselves. The ~~often~~ ~~explicit message is~~ ~~illness = non-conformity~~. Therapy is designed to <sup>get across</sup> ~~convey~~ to the patient what the family has failed to convey: mental health equals conformity (you schizophrenic asshole).

- 35-5 non-obedience p. 34-5
- 40 mother father in league
- 40 paranoia - mistrust of mistrust
- 42 parents deny her assertion
- 46 mi = "greed", "selfish nature"
- 47 illness = autonomy
- 49 appendix - def views of fam + pat
- 77 par's = business partners (2)
- 78 deny her growing up
- 78 - happy fam. <sup>work</sup> done for kids sake
- 79 - did everything for her
- 80 - knew her daughter's feeling
- 81 - <sup>did</sup> did everything for the best
- 85 - don't like clothes
- 88 mother invalidates statem by 1, 2, 3, 4
- 91 what I give you family