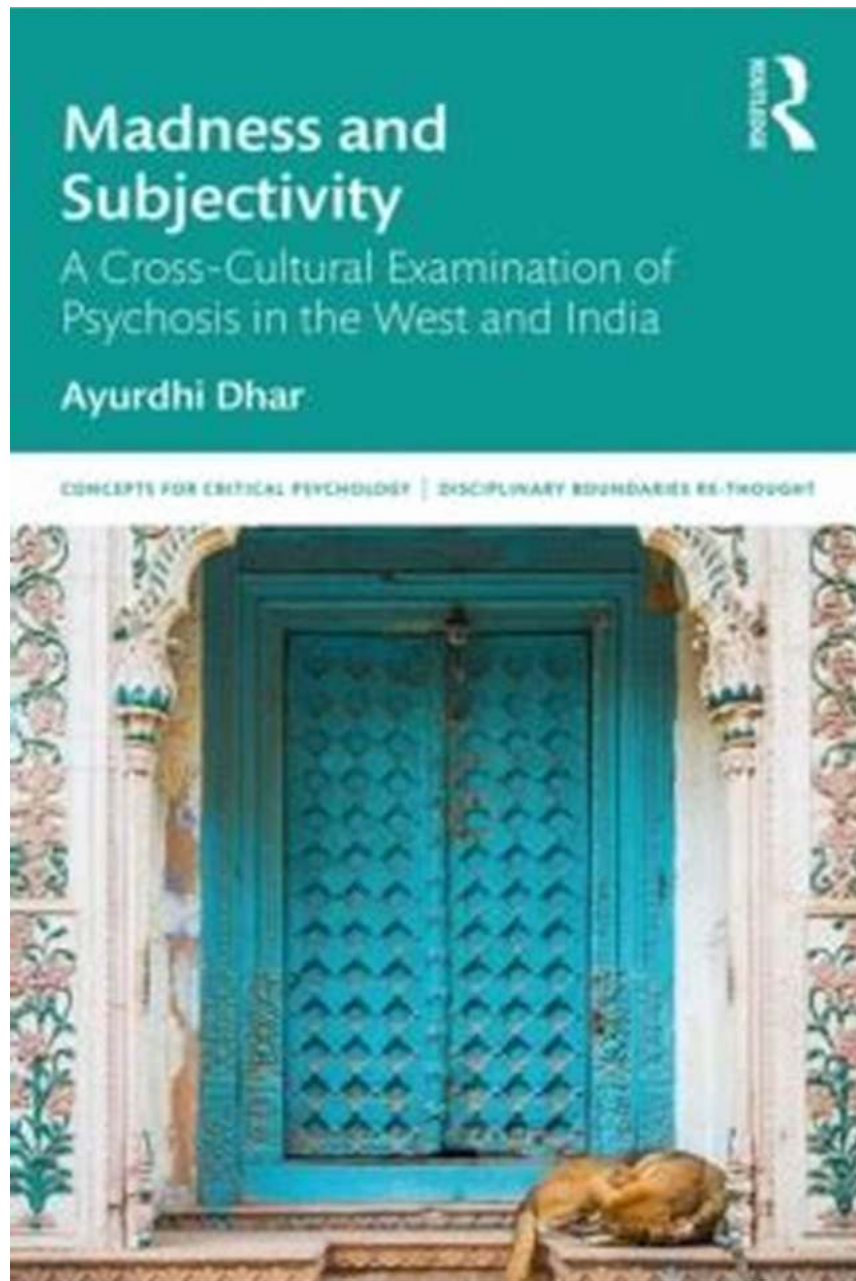


# Cross Cultural Examination Of Psychosis In The West And India Concepts For

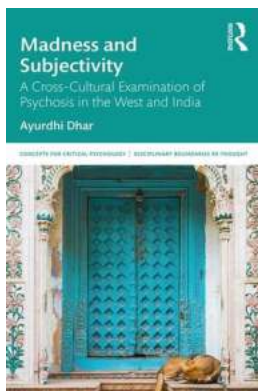


Mental health is a topic that has gained significant attention in recent years, with a growing focus on understanding the different ways in which mental illnesses are perceived and treated across cultures. Psychosis, in particular, is a complex mental health condition that presents itself differently in various cultural contexts.

In this article, we will explore the cross-cultural examination of psychosis in the West and India, shedding light on the unique concepts and approaches employed in each culture.

## Understanding Psychosis

Before delving into the cross-cultural examination, it is crucial to have a clear understanding of what psychosis entails. Psychosis is a state of mind characterized by a loss of contact with reality, leading to significant impairments in thought processes, perception, and behavior. It often manifests through hallucinations, delusions, disorganized thinking, and emotional disturbances. While psychosis itself is a universal phenomenon, its cultural interpretation and responses vary widely.



## Madness and Subjectivity: A Cross-Cultural Examination of Psychosis in the West and India (Concepts for Critical Psychology)

by Paul Watzlawick (1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1358 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 200 pages



## Psychosis in Western Culture

In Western societies, the understanding and treatment of psychosis are primarily influenced by biomedical models, emphasizing neurotransmitter imbalances and

genetic predispositions. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) serves as the diagnostic tool widely used by mental health professionals in the West. It categorizes psychosis as a symptom of various mental disorders, such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder.

The approach to treatment usually involves a combination of antipsychotic medications and psychotherapeutic interventions. Western cultures tend to prioritize individual autonomy and strive for symptom reduction and functional recovery. The emphasis is on helping individuals regain control over their lives and integrating them back into society.

However, this biomedical approach has its limitations. It often overlooks the social and cultural factors that may contribute to the development and expression of psychosis. Cultural nuances, such as beliefs, religious experiences, and social structures, are crucial in understanding the meaning and manifestation of psychosis in non-Western contexts.

## **Psychosis in Indian Culture**

In India, psychosis is often considered through the lens of spirituality and mysticism. Traditional Indian concepts, such as "Dahi Handi," "Jagrata," or "Mahabharata," provide alternative frameworks for understanding and interpreting psychotic experiences. These cultural concepts are deeply rooted in Hindu mythology and hold significant symbolic and spiritual meaning.

Indian society also gives importance to familial and community support in dealing with psychosis. Families play a central role in caregiving, often providing emotional and practical support to their loved ones. Traditional healers, known as "sadhus" or "shamans," are also commonly consulted, as they possess spiritual knowledge and insight.

Treatment approaches in India encompass a combination of biomedical interventions, such as medications and psychotherapy, and alternative or complementary practices like yoga, meditation, and Ayurvedic medicine. The goal is not only symptom reduction but also achieving a sense of harmony between the individual and the surrounding environment.

## **Bridge Between Cultures**

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, it is essential to bridge the gap between Western and Indian approaches to psychosis. Recognizing the culturally diverse manifestations of psychosis can lead to more effective and holistic treatments. It is crucial to acknowledge that individuals may have unique cultural perspectives and belief systems that influence their experiences of psychosis.

Collaboration between Western and Indian mental health professionals can facilitate a cross-cultural understanding of psychosis. This collaboration could involve sharing clinical insights, research findings, and employing culturally sensitive diagnostic tools. By integrating multiple perspectives and tailoring interventions to meet individual cultural needs, more comprehensive and compassionate care can be provided.

The examination of psychosis in the West and India highlights the importance of considering cultural factors in our understanding and treatment of mental health conditions. Even though psychosis is a universal phenomenon, its interpretation and responses vary greatly across cultures. By embracing a cross-cultural approach, we can foster greater empathy, inclusivity, and ultimately better mental health outcomes for individuals around the world.



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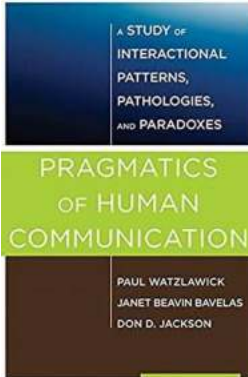
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This crucial new work draws on empirical findings from rural North India in relation to madness and subjectivity, revealing the different structures of subjectivity underlying the narratives of schizophrenia, spirits, ghosts, and deities.

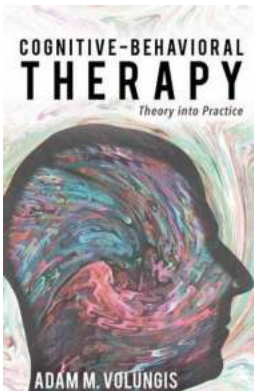
Unravelling the loose ends of madness, the author explores the cultural differences in understanding and experiencing madness to examine how modern insanity is treated as a clinical disorder, but historically it represents how we form knowledge and understand self-knowledge. The author begins by theoretically investigating how the schizophrenic personifies the fractures in modern Western thought to explain why, despite decades of intense contention, the category of schizophrenia is still alive. She then examines the narratives of people in the Himalayan Mountains of rural India to reveal the discursive conditions that animate their stories around what psychology calls psychosis, critiquing the monoculturalism in trauma theory and challenging the ongoing march of the Global Mental Health Movement in the Global South.

Examining what a study of madness reveals about two different cultures, and their ways of thinking and being, this is fascinating reading for students interested in mental health, critical psychology, and Indian culture.



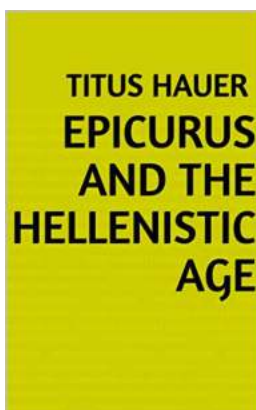
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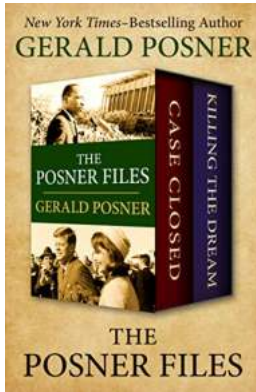
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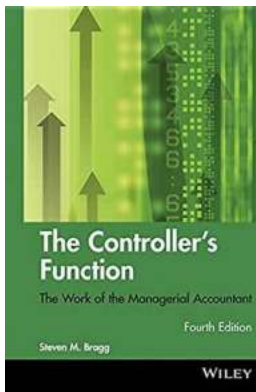
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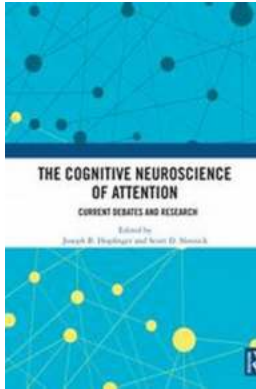
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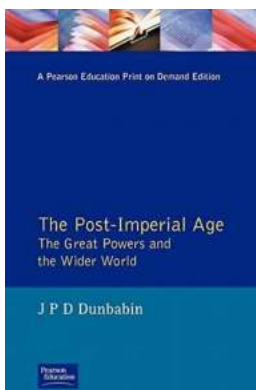
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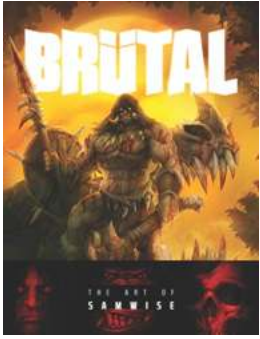
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