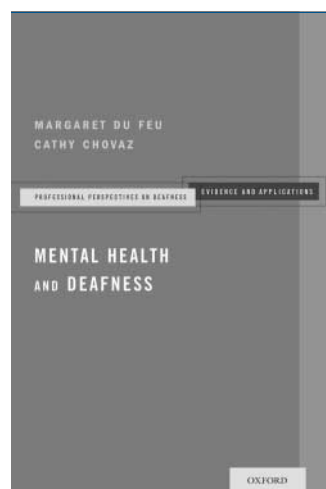


In this comprehensive and rare text on ECT, Ghaziuddin & Walter systematically address the issues of stigma, training, consent and practice. Procedures and practice have been progressively refined and now modern anaesthetic methods are in use. Pre-assessment is thorough, outcome measures are both generic and specific, including cognitive assessment scales and neuropsychological testing; electrocardiography, electroencephalography and brain imaging are recommended. It would appear that there are no absolute medical or neurological contraindications to ECT. Specific chapters are dedicated to ECT treatment studies and procedures for particular disorders, with accompanying case vignettes.

In conclusion, the evidence from open studies and case series for ECT in children and adolescents is convincing. Those clinicians who have during the course of their practice seen profoundly depressed children and young people unresponsive to treatment, young people with life-threatening catatonic states, or severely self-injurious children with autism spectrum disorder who head-banged until brain damage ensued, will, no doubt, consider ECT more readily after referring to this book. Others need training. If you are considering the administration of ECT for your patients or discussing the 'pros and cons' with the young person and their family, be sure to refer to this work.

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Mental Health and Deafness: Professional Perspectives on Deafness, Evidence and Applications

By Margaret Du Feu & Cathy Chovaz.
Oxford University Press USA. 2014.
£25.99 (pb). 320 pp.
ISBN: 9780199860753

Like the authors of this book, I work as a consultant psychiatrist with adults who have been deaf from an early age and communicate in sign language. Unlike the authors, I am hearing and when I go home at night I switch back into the hearing world. Both authors are deafened and rely on sign language to communicate. This book is remarkable in that it is the first textbook on mental health and deafness written by deaf professionals, a consultant psychiatrist and Canada's first-ever deaf clinical psychologist.

From my perspective the two greatest challenges in working with this patient group are sharing their experiences of discrimination and abuse and the difficulty mainstream health services consistently have understanding and meeting their needs. This book has been written for clinicians who have relatively little experience working with deaf children and adults and is designed to be an introductory text for mainstream clinicians to better equip them to serve the needs of their patients.

It is beautifully written and as a result it is an easy and entertaining read, with illustrative case studies that provide windows into the real-life world of deaf people. Humour, pathos and tributes to the resilience of deaf people are woven adroitly into the clinical narrative. The content covers broad facts about deafness and deaf people in society, moving on to discuss deaf children's early development and the massive impact on them of communication and education choices made for them by others.

Assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders in deaf children, adolescents, adults, older people and deafened and deaf-blind people are all covered. The sections on taking a history and working with interpreters are particularly detailed and helpful.

I recommend this book to mainstream clinicians and to all the clinicians already working with deaf people. Reading it opens one's mind to the unusual experiences and presentation of mental illness in a group who have a different perspective on the world and who 'hear' through their eyes.

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The Nostalgia Factory: Memory, Time and Ageing

By Douwe Draaisma.
Yale University Press. 2013.
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ISBN: 9780300182866

Nostalgia is often portrayed as a rather cosy emotion, for example the *Ostalgie* for the former East Germany portrayed in films such as Wolfgang Becker's 2003 *Good Bye Lenin!* or the 'nostalgia shop' ('Out of the Past') described in Woody Allen's 2011 *Midnight in Paris*: 'What was prosaic and even vulgar to one generation had been transmuted by the mere passing of years to a status at once magical and also camp' (opening lines of a book written by Gil Pander). However, Professor Draaisma, of the University of Groningen, reminds us of the painful root of the word nostalgia, invented in 1688 by Dr Johannes Hofer by translating the German *Heimweh* into Greek. Jaspers also described a case series of individuals who, in despair, committed arson and murder in order to get home – a world away from the 'magical and camp'.

The essays in this engaging volume deal with ageing, normal forgetfulness and reminiscence, and summarise a large amount of empirical research. One particularly fascinating chapter deals with the commodification of memory loss through memory training (which only seems to train you to be better at memory training games). The chapter ends, in an interesting parallel to Barbara Ehrenreich's *Smile or Die: How Positive Thinking Fooled America and The World*, with a thoughtful consideration of the