

'Schizophrenia': Reception, Semantic Shift, and Criticism of a Concept in the 20th Century.

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Overview

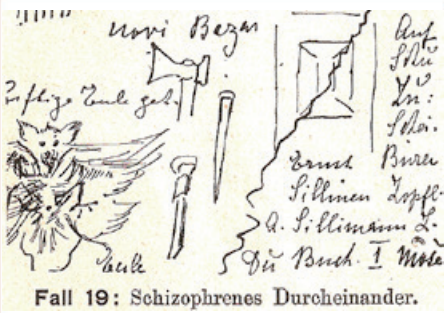
Based in Zurich, where in 1908 Eugen Bleuler introduced the term 'schizophrenia' into the medical discourse (1), this project intends to provide a detailed analysis of the reception of this powerful term as well as its constant renegotiation between clinical psychiatry and society. Thus we expect to gain fruitful insights into the relationship between medical theory and everyday semantics as well as into the self-image of psychiatry and society.



Approaches and Results

Rooted in the disciplinary methodologies of psychiatry, linguistics, history, philosophy, and film / media studies, the project aims for:

- methodological cross-applications
- creation of multiple inter-/transdisciplinary approaches
- epistemological evaluations



Added Value of the Interdisciplinary Approach

Impact on:

- 1. research topic:** Only a transdisciplinary approach allows to consider 'schizophrenia' in its situatedness between everyday language, media, the arts, clinical and social theories / practices as well as in its historical contingency.
- 2. researchers:** A transdisciplinary approach questions some basic assumptions of our disciplines.



Fall 17: Schizophrene Klangassoziationen.

Discussion

- How can we establish a common language and a common ground transcending the individual disciplines?
- Can our approach be applied to the study of other illnesses?
- Can our research help in contesting prejudices about mental illnesses?
- How does our research relate to other interdisciplinary work, and how could such relations become (more) visible?

References

(1) Bleuler, Eugen (1908) „Die Prognose der Dementia praecox (Schizophreniegruppe)“. In: *Allgemeine Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie und psychisch-gerichtliche Medizin*. No. 65, pp. 436–464.

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