In 1981, Toronto activist Mel Starkman wrote: “An important new movement is sweeping through the western world... The ‘mad,’ the oppressed, the ex-inmates of society’s asylums are coming together and speaking for themselves.”

_Mad Matters_ is the first Canadian book to bring together the writings of this vital movement, which has grown explosively in the years since. With contributions from scholars in numerous disciplines, as well as activists and psychiatric survivors, it presents diverse critical voices that convey the lived experiences of the psychiatrized and challenges dominant understandings of “mental illness.” The connections between mad activism and other liberation struggles are stressed throughout, making the book a major contribution to the literature on human rights and anti-oppression.

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Reviews

“This book is a much needed addition to the field of Disability Studies.”

Nancy Hansen, University of Manitoba

“This reader fills a clear gap in Canadian scholarship. It will, in my view, put Mad Studies ‘on the map’ and open this important area of study to a much larger audience. It will be particularly useful for senior undergraduate and graduate students but also brings together a disparate body of literature that will be useful to specialists in the field and to those who teach Disabilities, Mad Studies, and Social History.”

Thomas E. Brown, Mount Royal University

“This book carves out the terrain of a vital and robust new field of study and makes clear its many points of connection to lived experiences of madness, activist movements, and related scholarly disciplines. The writing in _Mad Matters_ comes from diverse personal and scholarly perspectives, and covers an impressive range of relevant topics, yet it all consistently advances the volume’s goal of explaining and demonstrating the scope and radical significance of Mad Studies. In short, the anthology is delightfully readable and theoretically rich.”—_Joanne Woiak, University of Washington_

Table of Contents

Preface
Acknowledgements
Introducing Mad Studies

**Part I: Mad People’s History, Evolving Culture, and Language**

Chapter 1: The Movement, _Mel Starkman_
Chapter 2: Women in 19th Century Asylums: Three Exemplary Women; A New Brunswick Hero, _Nérée St-Amand and Eugène LeBlanc_
Chapter 3: Democracy is a Very Radical Idea, _Lanny Beckman and Megan J. Davies_
Chapter 4: What Makes Us a Community? Reflections on Building Solidarity in Anti-Sanist Praxis, _Shaindl Diamond_

**Part II: Mad Engagements**

Chapter 6: “Breaking open the bone”: Storying, Sanism, and Mad Grief, _Jennifer M. Poole and Jennifer Ward_
Chapter 7: Mad as Hell: The Objectifying Experience of Symbolic Violence, _Ji-Eun Lee_
Chapter 8: A Denial of Being: Psychiatrization as Epistemic Violence, _Maria Liegghio_
Chapter 9: Mad Success: What Could Go Wrong When Psychiatry Employs Us as “Peers”? _Erick Fabris_

**Part III: Critiques of Psychiatry: Practice and Pedagogy**

Chapter 10: The Tragic Farce of “Community Mental Health Care,” _Irit Shamrat_
Chapter 11: Electroshock: Torture as “Treatment,” _Don Weitz_
Chapter 12: Is Mad Studies Emerging as a New Field of Inquiry? _David Reville_

**Part IV: Law, Public Policy, and Media Madness**

Chapter 13: Making Madness Matter in Academic Practice, _Kathryn Church_

Chapter 14: Mad Patients as Legal Intervenors in Court, _Lucy Costa_
Chapter 15: Removing Civil Rights: How Dare We? _Gordone Warner_
Chapter 16: “They should not be allowed to do this to the homeless and mentally ill”: Minimum Separation Distance Bylaws Reconsidered, _Lilith “Chava” Finkler_

Chapter 17: The Making and Marketing of Mental Health Literacy in Canada, _Kimberley White and M.C. Pike_

Chapter 18: Pitching Mad: News Media and the ‘Psychiatric Survivor’ Perspective, _Rob Wipond_
**Part V: Social Justice, Madness, and Identity Politics**

Chapter 19: Mad Nation? Thinking through Race, Class, and Mad Identity Politics, Rachel Gorman
Chapter 20: Whither Indigenizing the Mad Movement? Theorizing the Social Relations of Race and Madness through Conviviality, Louise Tam
Chapter 21: Spaces in Place: Negotiating Queer In/visibility within Psychiatric and Mental Health Service Settings, Andrea Daley
Chapter 23: Recovery: Progressive Paradigm or Neoliberal Smokescreen? Marina Morrow

Glossary of Terms
References
Case Law and Statutes
About the Editors and Contributors

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