

evidence I would question the appropriateness of publishing the anti-Darwinian analysis in this kind of book when it could have found a place elsewhere, in any number of publications critical of the evolutionary approach to psychiatry.

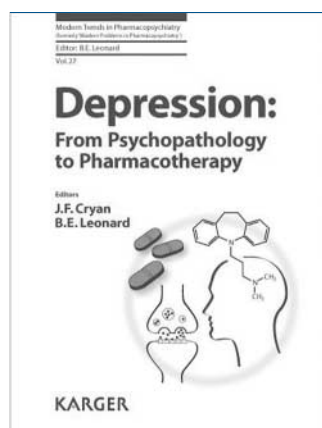
The heart of the book is in the chapters that deal with the major conceptual questions. These include the role of ethology in understanding mental disorder and in identifying human, species-specific psychological traits. There is a chapter evaluating an evolutionary framework for determining the nature of mental disorder through the application of Wakefield's harmful dysfunction analysis and one proposing evolutionary foundations for psychiatric diagnosis and a new basis for psychiatric classification. Finally, there is a chapter exploring the limitations of evolutionary theory in identifying the line of demarcation between normality and disorder. These chapters would be of interest to any reader who wishes to reflect on the meaning of mental disorder and on the shortcomings and limitations of current psychiatric diagnosis, whether or not they have an interest in Darwinian theory. These chapters are very well written and are accessible to the non-specialist.

A further chapter presents an interesting hypothesis to explain the gender differences in empathy that lie at the root of the higher prevalence of autism-spectrum disorders among males. This proposes that in the ancestral environment males remained with their kin group (philopatry) forming kin-based male coalitions, whereas females migrated on sexual maturity to a different group and thus needed to bond with non-kin. Additionally, males regularly engaged in intergroup violence whereby empathy had to be 'switched off'. It is therefore argued that the pay-offs of empathy were drastically different for males and females and they were, therefore, subject to distinct selection pressures. Evolutionary formulations on depression, schizophrenia and sexual imprinting in humans are also discussed.

This is not an introductory text for anyone new to the subject of evolutionary psychiatry, nor is it a book that one would necessarily read from cover to cover in a single sitting. Each chapter is self-contained and can be read separately without reference to the rest of the book. Would I recommend it? Yes, I certainly would. So long as the reader remembers that not all chapters are of equal worth or quality.

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Depression: From Psychopathology to Pharmacotherapy

Edited by J. F. Cryan
& B. E. Leonard.
Karger, 2010.
US\$148.00 (hb). 274pp.
ISBN: 9783805596053

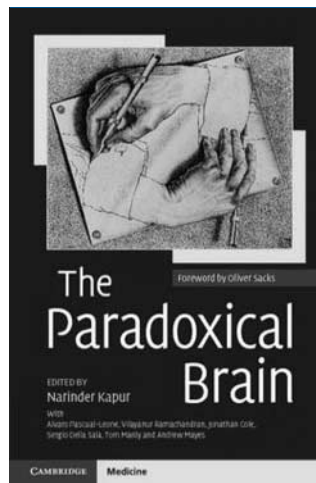
The book is well structured and reasonably comprehensive in its coverage. It comprises chapters on the hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis, brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF)

along with more innovative fair. Like in any multi-authored publication there are variations in quality of contributions. A couple of chapters are clinically naive and a rather poorly put together rehash of previously published reviews. However, there are also well-written chapters by prominent authors in the field. I found several gems, such as an excellent overview of the biology of dysfunctional circadian rhythms and mood disorders by Norman and an exciting chapter on chromatin-based treatments for affective disorders by Covington & Berton. Martin *et al* write really well on the role of the oft-forgotten 5-HT_{2C} receptor in antidepressant action and provide a fairly comprehensive review of the current evidence base. Cannon's chapter on neuroimaging, albeit rather 'textually dense', is superb if you are short of ideas for grant applications for research in this area.

Would I recommend this book? There is little for the clinician interested in new insights to assist their work in the clinic, with just two relatively lightweight chapters relating to current clinical practice. Otherwise, the science described may influence treatment in the future, most likely in at least a decade's time. For scientists working in the area, much of the views and data described can be found by searching the published literature. However, the book is a useful quick and easy source of information, especially for the real 'anoraks' interested in the pathophysiology and treatment of depression.

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The Paradoxical Brain

Edited by Narinder Kapur.
Cambridge University Press, 2011.
£65.00 (hb). 488 pp.
ISBN: 9780521115575

The ancient Greek term *paradoxon* is composed of the prefix 'para' (against) and the word 'doxa' (opinion) and literally means 'beside belief' or 'contrary to expectation'. Explaining what we currently know about brain function by means of paradoxes – brain findings that are counterintuitive and go against the grain of established neuroscientific thinking – can appear a paradoxical exercise itself. However, this original, entertaining and informative approach has been successfully undertaken by Narinder Kapur and a panel of leading researchers in the fields of clinical and cognitive neuroscience.

Featuring a foreword by Oliver Sacks, this multi-authored volume covers a wide range of brain paradoxes across different disciplines. Clinical neuropharmacology informs clinical epileptologists about the paradoxical worsening of seizures by some anti-epileptic drugs (e.g. carbamazepine in absence seizures). One