

Editor's Introduction to Issue on Case Formulation and Therapist Responsiveness

DANIEL B. FISHMAN, EDITOR^{a,b}

^a Graduate School of Applied & Professional Psychology, Rutgers University

^b Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Daniel B. Fishman, Graduate School of Applied & Professional Psychology, Rutgers University, 152 Frelinghuysen Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854.
Email: dfish96198@aol.com

Original Articles

The two articles highlighted in this issue, the first by Tracy Eells on measuring best practice in case formulation, and the second by David Edwards on therapist responsiveness when engaging in the manualized treatment of clients with PTSD, are of particular relevance to case study methodology as well as to clinicians of all treatment orientations.

Eells has edited the definitive *Handbook of Psychotherapy Case Formulation* (Guilford, 1997), now in its second edition (Guilford, 2007), and his empirical research program in this area is on the cutting edge of the field. He presents here his work on the case formulations of clinicians with different degrees of expertise and different theoretical orientations to standardized case vignettes. Of special interest is the multi-method approach Eells uses in analyzing his data—bringing together group-based, case-based, quantitative, and qualitative analyses—and Eells' innovative use of the results to create a general model and methodology for defining and assessing clinical competencies in the field of case formulation.

Edwards has developed a model that defines and guides therapist responsiveness, demonstrating how manual-based therapies can be individualized to particular client characteristics, history, life contexts, and within-session responses. Edwards illustrates his model with PTSD case studies conducted by clinical psychology students whom he has supervised, both clinically and in their case write-ups for Master's and Doctoral theses at Rhodes University in South Africa. Edwards' article focuses on 6 case studies, 3 of which are reprinted in the final section of this issue along with an article by Edwards on the development of his therapist responsiveness model. In addition to the 6 case studies, Edwards' project is informed by 13 additional ones. All are or will be freely available online, as shown in Table 1 in the Edwards article; and they represent an impressive integration of training and research.

Edwards' series of 19 systematically documented cases following an individually tailored, manualized treatment for a particular disorder represents one type of case series paradigm to which PCSP aspires. For while the power for inductive generalization is limited within the individual case study, that power is enhanced more and more to the degree that more and more cases of a similar type are added for consideration.

Commentaries

Following the above articles, each of the authors comments on each other's work, with a focus on the interrelationships between their ideas.

The second two commentaries bring in diverse outside perspectives. First, William O'Brien focuses on discussing the Eells' and Edwards' work from the perspective of his field of expertise, behavioral assessment and case formulation, with a particular emphasis on functional analysis. Second, Christopher Reigeluth and Michael Addis focus on the creative application of Eells' and Edwards' ideas to their area of expertise, male mental health, including the treatment of "traditional men."

Reprinted Articles Linked to David Edwards' Original Article on "Therapist Responsiveness"

The four reprinted articles mentioned above round out this issue.