Psychopathology is ubiquitous. With respect to theory, diagnosis, and treatment, therefore, a dictionary of psychopathology is relevant to the entire cross section of mental health disciplines. This dictionary is intended to provide definitions of the concepts and vicissitudes of psychopathology as reflected within the broad theoretical domains of psychiatry, psychology, psychoanalysis, and social work as well as within the wide varieties of therapeutic modalities, such as the relational therapies, the cognitive behavioral approaches, with even a nod to the newest domain within neuroscience, that of neuropsychoanalysis—the attempt to relate brain and mind.

In keeping with this approach, this Dictionary of Psychopathology is shaped according to the needs of clinicians, academicians, and researchers who are professionally occupied with the subject matter of psychopathology—from psychoanalysts to behavior therapists, from ego psychologists to cognitive psychologists, from psychodynamically oriented group therapists to Gestaltists and Tavistockians, from relational therapists—including intersubjectivists, object relationists, Rogerians, and existentialists—to Jungians, from active psychotherapists to self psychologists, and from academic psychologists to neuroscientists.

Entries focus more on psychodynamic metapsychology than on cognitive behavior, a consideration based largely on the overall amplification and cumulative archive of psychodynamic psychology inspired by the expansion of interest
in psychoanalysis over the span of the entire twentieth century. The ferment in psychodynamic psychology spawned a vast theoretical and clinical literature. In contrast, although cognitive behavioral approaches also go back one hundred years, its explosive history, momentum, and burgeoning theoretical and clinical literature is a more modern phenomenon. Thus the cognitive behavioral archive is a younger dimension in the unearthing of the nature of psychopathology. The relative viable age of each domain—that of psychodynamic psychology, on the one hand, and cognitive behavioral approaches, on the other—accounts for the difference in the number of entries in this dictionary that represent the two domains.

In the history of dictionary resources of psychopathology, a close examination of the literature will reveal that each of these reference works was compiled along sectarian lines: there are dictionaries for psychiatrists, most or all of which are entitled “Psychiatric Dictionary,” dictionaries for psychologists, most or all of which are entitled “Dictionary of Psychology,” dictionaries for psychoanalysts, most or all of which are entitled “Dictionary of Psychoanalysis,” and a dictionary for social workers entitled “Dictionary of Social Work.”

It is evident that extant dictionaries representing the various disciplines of the psychological sciences are characterized, parsed, and defined by their respective and particular lexicons and thus contain multitudes of entries not always, and even not always specifically, directed to the clinician, nor even, in this respect, particularly relevant to clinical concerns regarding psychopathology. For example, an entry such as Trommer’s sign, which refers to hemiplegia (caused by organic brain disease), would probably be of little use to the clinician who is managing a private clinical practice, functioning in an agency, clinic, hospital, or psychoanalytic institute, or teaching psychopathology/abnormal psychology to undergraduates, graduates, or medical students—whether utilizing either psychodynamically oriented approaches or cognitive behavioral ones, because Trommer’s sign is simply acknowledging that a snapping of the index finger will produce a flexion of the thumb. Another example would be an entry such as hippus, which
refers to pupil contraction and dilation to light stimulation that, because of its remotest relevance to clinicians in the study of psychopathology as well as its nonexistence in the clinical psychological literature or, for that matter, in clinical practice, would also not be included.

In contrast, terms such as projection, defined as a defense mechanism and applied to the study of ego defenses as well as to diagnostic phenomena such as paranoia, is, of course, here registered. Another example of an entry that is included is ego-syntonic, because it, too, is central to clinical work with respect to the diagnostic and infrastructural understanding of anxiety and character formation, especially psychological symptom formation. A third example, the reference to the good enough mother, is salient to issues of psychological development and therefore also relevant to the goal and vision of this dictionary. Other examples of entries that are registered here include systematic desensitization, a reference to how the history of conditioning psychology has influenced the treatment of phobias, or hot cognition, a concept of cognitive behavior therapy. Even in the domain of neuropsychoanalysis, the concept of repression of trauma would be attributed to the phenomenon of hormone action, the result of the retranscribing action of the hippocampus—a region of the brain.

Thus, in view of the aim of this dictionary, it is composed and formatted in an effort to unify and encompass the true generic issue that cuts across all the mental health/scientific disciplines, sectarian lines, metapsychologies, and treatment technologies—the cohesion and synthesis of psychopathology.

In identifying psychopathology, this Dictionary of Psychopathology contains representation of both the wide scope of theoretical formulations as well as of the treatment technologies that correspond to these approaches. Therefore, definitions in the dictionary are guided by a fundamental tetrad of criteria:

1. that psychopathology as aberrant behavior is embedded in the personality structure—whether considered from psychoanalytic, cognitive behavioral, or relational psychologies;
2. that, in order to better appreciate psychopathological manifestations, one needs to have the opportunity to reference the parameters, fabric, and organizational nature of the entire personality network, i.e., emotion and trait development, cognitive organization, intrapsychic balance, psychosomatic correlates, diagnostic disposition, dreams and nightmares, influence of the “other,” and all other vicissitudes of the personality;

3. that it is an imperative to include overall therapeutic principles and their corresponding treatment technologies in the approach to understanding both aberrant or abnormal behavior as well as normal development; and

4. that diagnosis is the code language for entire clusters of symptoms and syndromes of psychopathology.

Along with students, this dictionary will be useful to psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, psychoanalysts, psychiatric nurses, family medical practitioners, school psychologists, counselors, and psychotherapists, as well as to other allied professionals such as academic psychologists and those with professorial positions in university undergraduate and graduate mental health programs, in medical schools, and in clinical postdoctoral institutes. Thus this dictionary is not relevant solely to one or another of the mental health disciplines. Rather, it is devoted to the specific glossary of psychopathology, relevant to all of these disciplines and to the variety of theoretical schools—to the entire arc of the mental health field.

The Dictionary of Psychopathology contains more than two thousand entries directed to the understanding of psychopathology, specific symptom disorders, general syndromes, various facets of the structure of personality, and diagnosis—including selected entries on the diagnostic nomenclature of the professional psychological and psychiatric associations. As such, psychological phenomena that reflect the known overall boundary of metapsychology, associated psychotherapeutic treatment technologies, and specific psychological phenomena are embraced within these entries. In addition, a wide sample of the many theoreticians and researchers, and their contributions to the un-
derstanding of psychopathology, are noted. These include representatives of the generation of pioneer contributors who formulated the necessary insights that laid the foundation for the established understanding of psychopathology and whose ideas essentially constitute benchmark advances in the history and evolution of the subject matter. Along with these seminal figures, the more contemporary theoreticians who are hewing newer insights into the understanding of psychopathology are also included and their contributions noted.

As a utilitarian repository source, this Dictionary of Psychopathology is designed to be easily accessed. To that end and to facilitate the unfolding of meanings, of the more than two thousand entries, over fifteen hundred are primary entries, and more than five hundred are subentries. In addition, cross-referencing is indicated throughout.

The editorial board of this dictionary reviewed definitions of entries embracing the broad prism of psychopathology including psychodynamic/psychoanalytic, relational, cognitive behavioral, and other psychological therapies, also covering theoretical formulations that characterize a variety of phenomena of the psychiatric and psychological literatures. In addition, conceptualization of differential diagnosis specifically and psychodiagnostics generally was considered as well as references to psychopharmacological listings and the relation of neuroscience to psychological phenomena.

To underscore the promise of this dictionary, it is hoped that its mission has been reasonably approximated—to address psychopathology from a synthesizing point of advantage—so that parameters of personality, character formation, derived psychopathology such as symptoms, treatment concepts, and diagnoses, are identified and cogently defined. In this way psychopathology, as the essential substance of the dictionary, is surrounded by the panorama of metapsychologies and the sweep of therapeutic modalities.

This comprehensive approach to the analysis of psychopathology also implies that the terminology of this dictionary does not solely reflect the problems of clinical patients. We need to remember, as already stated, that psychopathology is ubiquitous.
DICTIONARY OF

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY