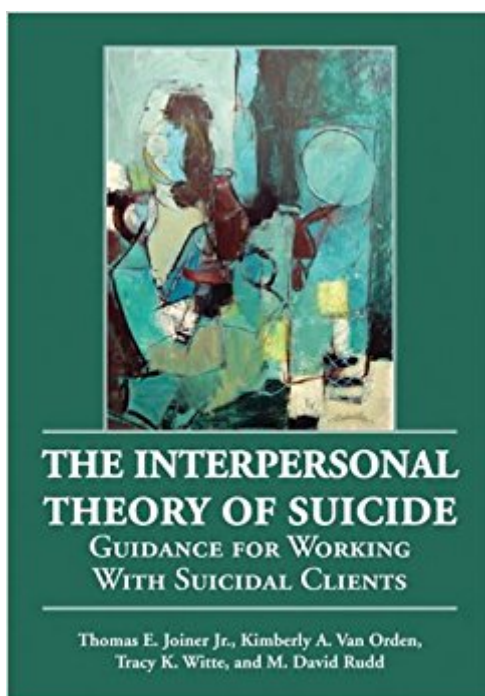


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The Interpersonal Theory Of Suicide: Guidance For Working With Suicidal Clients



Synopsis

Why do people die by suicide? Here, Dr Thomas Joiner and his colleagues attempt to answer this age-old question by exploring two obvious yet insightful assumptions: people die by suicide because they can, and people die by suicide because they want to.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

M. David Rudd is Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology at Texas Tech University, with an adjunct appointment as Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center. He also maintains a part-time private practice in clinical psychology. He completed his doctoral training at the University of Texas-Austin and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in cognitive therapy at the Beck Institute under the direction of Aaron T. Beck. Rudd is a Diplomate of the American Board of Professional Psychology and a Fellow of three professional societies, including the American Psychological Association (Division 12 and Division 29), the International Association of Suicide Research, and the Academy of Cognitive Therapy (a founding fellow). He was recently elected a Distinguished Practitioner and Scholar of the National Academies of Practice in Psychology. He was awarded the first-ever American Association of Suicidology Exceptional Leadership Award in 2005. In 2007, he received the Karl F. Heiser Presidential Award for Advocacy at the 2007 American Psychological Association Convention in San Francisco.

The authors of this effort to provide a guide to working with suicidal clients is a mixture of interesting ideas which are purported to be new and concepts taken from other theories. While authors clearly

give credit to DBT and CBT for some of the effectiveness they cite for this Interpersonal Theory, they fail to give any credit to the one source of their main concept. That is, the idea that one develops a sense of being a burden to family and no longer feels connected to or belonging with those around them. This burdensomeness and belongingness dyad is never credited to Alfred Adler. One of Adler's initial ideas was that everyone is born with an innate need to belong and be connected to fellow human beings. Without sufficient development or loss of such feelings, a person lacks the confidence to face the life tasks we all need to deal with. Such a direct use of this concept should have been at least given a glancing reference to its original author. Another irksome feature of this book is the repeated references throughout the chapters to programs/approaches to working with suicidal clients mentioned elsewhere in the book without giving any explanation of what they are. This necessitates flipping back and forth over and over again. It would have been much more satisfying to have at least a paragraph elucidating the gist of each of these programs and negating the need to keep flipping. Otherwise, the book is worth the time and money to review guidelines of the interpersonal approach and psychodynamic underpinnings despite its 50% of 296 pages given to references and index.

Good tool to use in practice.

Great theoretical manual on suicide. helps weed out the para-suicidal behaviors from those that are most likely to complete. A must read for every therapist working with high risk clients.

Joiner does an amazing job pinpointing the possible reasons 'why' suicide is committed by others. Very insightful. I would recommend.

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