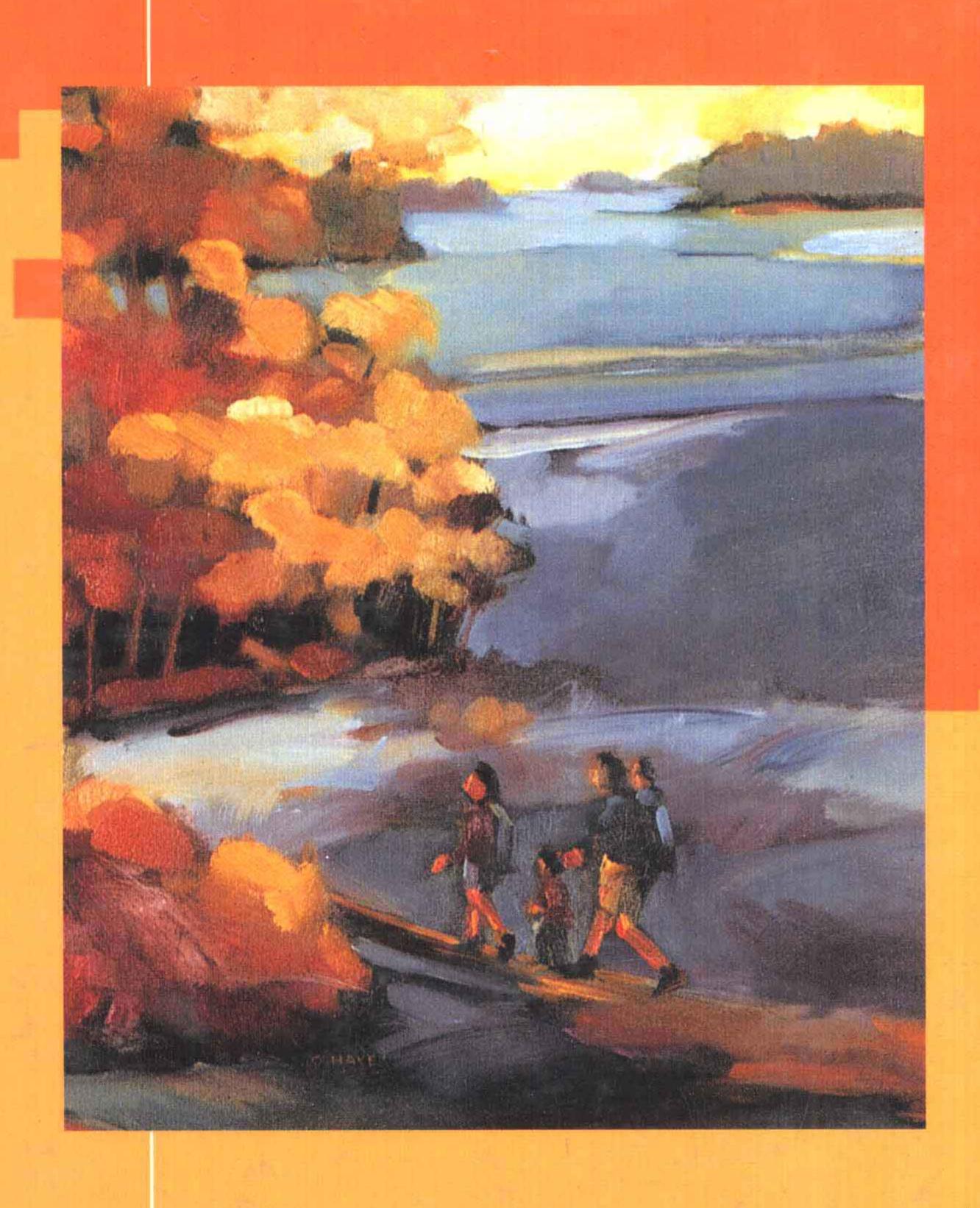
Contemporary Clinical Psychology



Contemporary Clinical Psychology

Thomas G. Plante

Santa Clara University and Stanford University



Dedication

For Lori and Zachary, who make everything worthwhile

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He has published over 60 professional journal articles on topics such as clinical psychology training and professional issues, psychological benefits of exercise, personality and stress, and psychological issues among Catholic clergy. He recently co-authored a statistics textbook and is completing an edited book on sex-offending clergy to be published by Praeger/Greenwood.

Dr. Plante lives in the San Francisco Bay area with his wife, Lori, and son, Zachary.

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PREFACE

The goals, activities, and contributions of contemporary clinical psychology are very appealing to many who are fascinated by human behavior and relationships. The enormous popularity of psychology as an undergraduate major, of clinical psychology as a career option, and of popular press psychology books are a testament to the inherent interest of clinical psychology. The goal of clinical psychology is noble: to use the principles of psychology and our understanding of human behavior to promote health, happiness, and quality of life.

Contemporary clinical psychology is changing and growing at a rapid pace. The advent of managed health care, the changing needs of a multicultural society, changes in training models, the shift from primarily a male to a female profession, technological and other scientific advances, complex problems in today's culture, all have greatly impacted both the science and practice of contemporary clinical psychology. Some of these changes are very positive; some are negative. Despite the challenges confronting clinical psychology, the field remains a fascinating and exciting endeavor with tremendous potential to help individuals, groups, and society.

As more research evidence emerges concerning the interplay of biological, psychological, and social influences on behavior, contemporary clinical psychologists must incorporate new knowledge to develop better applications in their efforts to understand and help others. Biopsychosocial integration in many ways best reflects contemporary clinical psychology, expanding the range and usefulness of its efforts.

This book seeks to provide students with an overview of contemporary clinical psychology from an integrative biopsychosocial perspective. The book highlights the various activities, roles, and responsibilities of the contemporary clinical psychologist as well as provides a foundation of the discipline through a detailed review of its history, scientific underpinnings, and theoretical orientations. The book also provides an overview of contemporary issues in clinical psychology as well as a road map for those interested in pursuing clinical psychology as a career option.

Each chapter includes a highlight of a contemporary clinical psychologist who provides the reader with a frank reflection on the pros and cons of contemporary clinical psychology as well as their view of the future of the field. A typical schedule is also provided so that the reader can get a sense of what a day in the life of a contemporary clinical psychologist might be like. Whereas some of the schedules were provided verbatim from the psychologist highlighted, a few of them were constructed from either telephone, electronic mail, or other methods provided by each psychologist. It is important to mention that the psychologists were chosen to reflect the broad range of people who are clinical psychologists. Whereas some of the psychologists are well known, others are not. Several work in colleges and universities conducting research and teaching. Several work in solo or group private practice. Some work in hospitals, government agencies, or university counseling clinics. One works in the United States Senate. Some combine work in several diverse settings. Some work part-time while raising a family. Psychologists from all over the United States, from diverse training programs, from both genders, a variety of ethnic groups, and with disabilities are represented. The range of activities, roles, and responsibilities of these psychologists reflects the diversity of careers open to the contemporary clinical psychologist.

Each chapter includes a detailed list of key points and terms to help enhance understanding. Each chapter also includes a section entitled The Big Picture, which provides a "bottom line" or "take home message" summary of the chapter as well as a look towards the future of the topic covered in that particular chapter.

A great deal of clinical case material is presented throughout the book as well. Several cases such as Mary, a 50-year-old woman with a long history of panic attacks, are discussed in several chapters for the reader to trace the theoretical conceptualization, assessment, and treatment of one case in some detail. All of the patients presented are based on actual clinical cases. All of the examples from testing, therapy, consultation, and ethics are also based on actual cases. However, some of

the details have been altered to protect patient and psychologist confidentiality.

This book is different from others in several important ways. First, it uses an integrative biopsychosocial approach throughout. This approach best reflects the perspective of most contemporary clinical psychologists. Less emphasis is placed on traditional theoretical models such as behavioral, psychodynamic, and humanistic approaches since most contemporary clinical psychologists integrate these and other approaches and orientations rather than using only one. Second, although scholarly and research based, an emphasis is placed on the real world of clinical psychology to provide the reader with a window into how the science and practice of clinical psychology is actually conducted. While I, like all authors of clinical psychology textbooks, work as a professor of psychology at a university, I maintain a small private practice and have worked for many years as a mental health director for a child and family agency, a staff psychologist and medical staff member at a university hospital, and a consultant to businesses, religious orders, schools, and law firms. Thus, I have attempted to provide the reader with a realistic, practical, and current portrayal of the contemporary clinical psychology field in many different settings. Finally, unlike other texts available, this book provides a separate chapter on ethics and a separate chapter on the consultation, administration, and teaching responsibilities of clinical psychologists. Ethical issues and these additional roles for clinical psychologists have received more attention in recent years and are thus reflected in this book. The book also provides a chapter on ten common questions asked about psychotherapy. Finally, emphasis is placed on contemporary issues in clinical psychology such as diversity, managed health care, and other hot topics.

The instructor's guide that accompanies this book provides faculty with a detailed book outline, multiple choice and essay examination questions, transparencies for class use, a list of references, web sites, popular and educational films, class activities, and a sample course syllabus. The instructor's guide is available on computer disc as well so faculty can alter these materials to best suit their needs.

The book assumes that students have already completed undergraduate courses in introductory and abnormal psychology. The book is appropriate for upper division college students who are likely to be psychology majors or first-year graduate students in clinical psychology. The book might also be a helpful reference for those who provide career guidance for students potentially interested in a career in psychology or related fields.

I welcome comments about the book from both students and faculty. These comments will be used to create improved future editions. Thank you for reading this book and welcome to the exciting, fascinating, and ever-changing world of contemporary clinical psychology.

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Numerous people other than the author assist in the development and completion of a book. Some provide help in a direct and concrete manner while others provide help in less direct and more supportive ways. I would like to acknowledge the assistance of the many people who have helped in both ways and have contributed to the development of the book and of me.

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