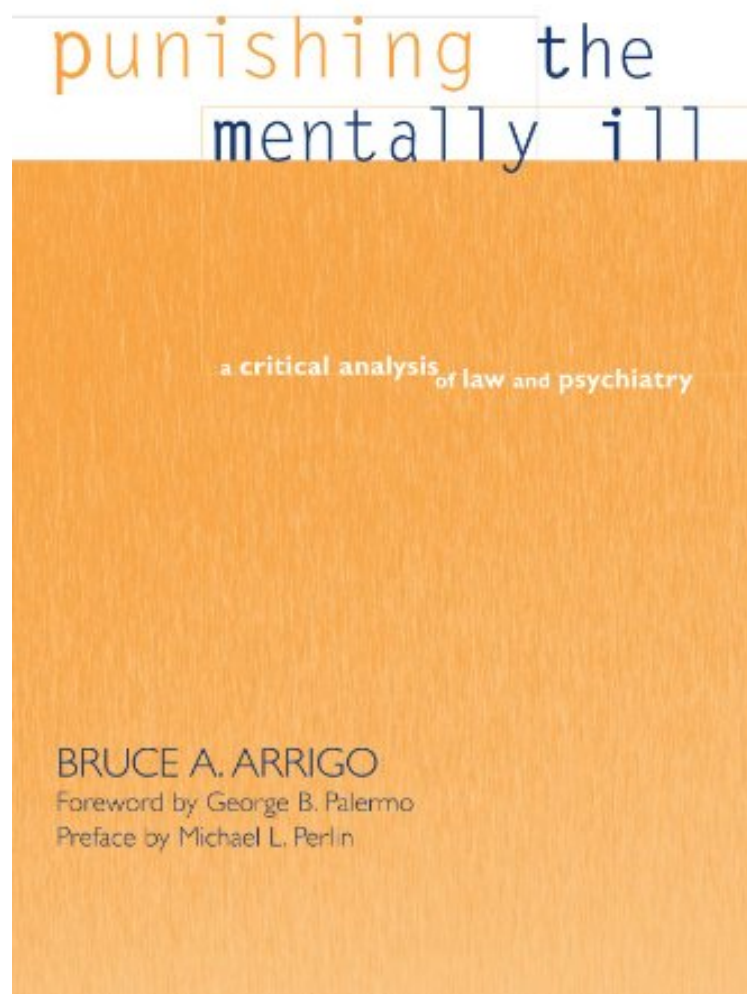


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Punishing the Mentally Ill: A Critical Analysis of Law and Psychiatry (Suny Series in New Directions in Crime and Justice Studies)

Bruce A. Arrigo

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Directions in Crime and Justice Studies):

A powerful, sophisticated, and original critique on how the disciplines of law and psychiatry behave and on how the mental health and justice systems operate, *Punishing the Mentally Ill* reveals where, how, and why the identity and humanity of persons with psychiatric disorders are consciously and unconsciously denied. Author Bruce A. Arrigo contends that despite periodic and well-intentioned efforts at reform, the current law-psychiatry system functions to punish the mentally ill for being different. The book synthesizes a wide range of mainstream and critical literature in sociology, law, philosophy, history, psychology, and psychoanalysis to establish a new theory of punishment at the law-psychiatry divide. To situate the analysis, enduring psycholegal issues are explored including the meaning of mental illness, definitions and predictions of dangerousness, the ethics of advocacy, the right to community-based treatment, the logic of forensic courtroom verdicts, transcarceration, and the execution of mentally disordered offenders among others. *Punishing the Mentally Ill* shows that current mental disability law research, programming, and policy are seriously flawed and that wholesale reform is necessary if the goals of citizen justice, social well-being, and humanism are to be realized.

The book offers key insights and is a genuine contribution to post-modern approaches. Metapsychology The author's analysis is quite illuminating. Indeed, it prompted me to think about the many encounters I have had within the system and the language and conversations I have witnessed. In many ways, I felt the analysis and central arguments provided a new, deeper way of understanding these routine events. Eric R. Wright, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis This is a very thought-provoking book regardless of whether one fully agrees with its findings and conclusions. Donald M. Linhorst, Saint Louis University""The book offers key insights and is a genuine contribution to post-modern approaches." -- Metapsychology "The author's analysis is quite illuminating. Indeed, it prompted me to think about the many encounters I have had within the system and the language and conversations I have witnessed. In many ways, I felt the analysis and central arguments provided a new, deeper way of understanding these routine events." -- Eric R. Wright, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis "This is a very thought-provoking book regardless of whether one fully agrees with its findings and conclusions." -- Donald M. Linhorst, Saint Louis University

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About the Author Bruce A. Arrigo is Professor and Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and Adjunct Professor of Public Policy and Psychology at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. He is the author of several books, including *Social Justice/Criminal Justice: The Maturation of Critical Theory in Law, Crime, and Deviance* and, with Christopher R. Williams, *Law, Psychology, and Justice: Chaos Theory and the New (Dis)order*, also published by SUNY Press.