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TITLE: Neoliberalism and Psychiatric Power: A Case Study of the DSM

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The American Psychiatric Association's (APA) Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) has become *the* authoritative text on defining mental disorder in western society. The psychiatric profession claim that this document reflects the advancement of scientific knowledge in the area and is unaffected by subjective and politically-motivated value judgements. In this paper I aim to question this assumption of an objective and rational system of knowledgeproduction through presenting a textual analysis of mental illness classifications and symptomologies presented in each edition of the DSM, from the first edition published in 1952 to the latest DSM published in 2013. It will be demonstrated that, over time, the language employed by the APA in their mental diagnoses has increasingly conformed to the development of wider neoliberal values and the closer surveillance of the self – this is an expert discourse where words and phrases such as 'productivity', 'employment', 'school', 'leisure', 'play' and the 'home' have taken on greater meaning and been enshrined in typologies of mental illness. The presentation will take time to consider the theoretical implications from this case study for understanding the wider forces which may aid or hinder the construction and reproduction of psychiatric discourse in neoliberal society.