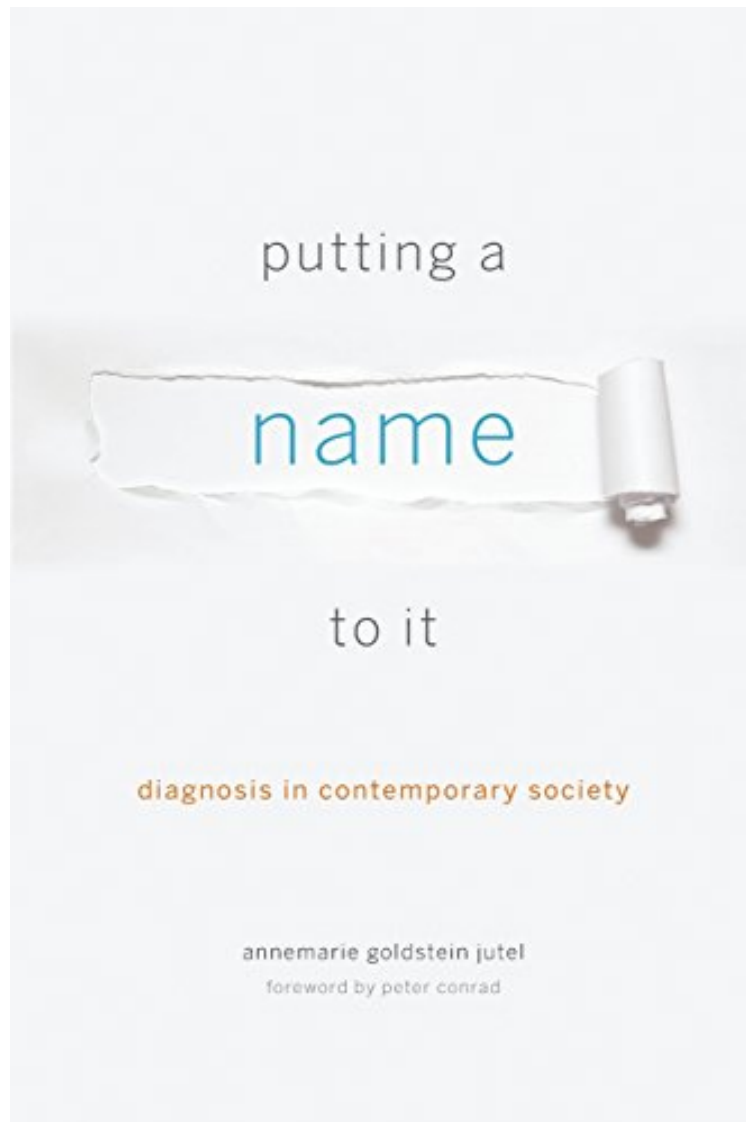


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Putting a Name to It: Diagnosis in Contemporary Society

Annemarie Goldstein Jutel

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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Revelatory and Important Read for Any Doctor, Nurse, or PatientBy j.m. brin"Putting a Name To It" shines a light on the nature of diagnosis--not the objective, scientifically-supported assessment everyone assumes it to be, but an ever-shifting product of myriad social, political, technological, and

economic forces. Jutel brilliantly names and analyzes these forces and raises important ethical and questions about how diagnoses are used (and misused) in our modern world. Recommended reading for anyone in the medical or healing support professions, and highly educational for laypersons as well.

Over a decade after medical sociologist Phil Brown called for a sociology of diagnosis, *Putting a Name to It* provides the first book-length, comprehensive framework for this emerging subdiscipline of medical sociology. Diagnosis is central to medicine. It creates social order, explains illness, identifies treatments, and predicts outcomes. Using concepts of medical sociology, Annemarie Goldstein Jutel sheds light on current knowledge about the components of diagnosis to outline how a sociology of diagnosis would function. She situates it within the broader discipline, lays out the directions it should explore, and discusses how the classification of illness and framing of diagnosis relate to social status and order. Jutel explains why this matters not just to doctor-patient relationships but also to the entire medical system. As a result, she argues, the sociological realm of diagnosis encompasses not only the ongoing controversy surrounding revisions to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders in psychiatry but also hot-button issues such as genetic screening and pharmaceutical industry disease mongering. Both a challenge and a call to arms, *Putting a Name to It* is a lucid, persuasive argument for formalizing, professionalizing, and advancing longstanding practice. Jutel's innovative, open approach and engaging arguments will find support among medical sociologists and practitioners and across much of the medical system.