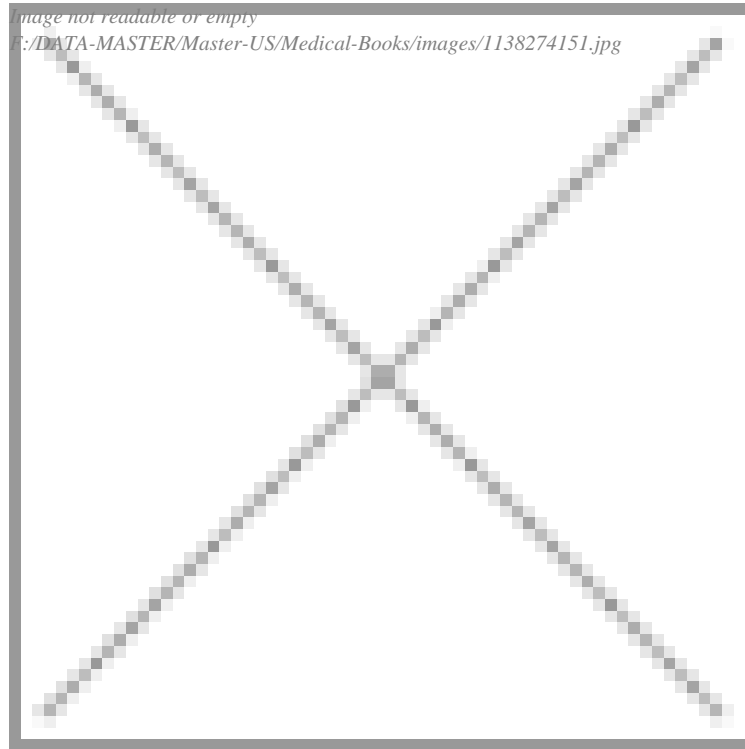


Evidence-Based Healthcare in Context: Critical Social Science Perspectives

Jon Adams

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Jon Adams : Evidence-Based Healthcare in Context: Critical Social Science Perspectives before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Evidence-Based Healthcare in Context: Critical Social Science Perspectives:

With new methods of treatment standardisation resulting in various benefits for patient outcomes, evidence-based medicine and evidence-based practice have emerged as defining features of western healthcare provision in recent years. Most health professions are now adopting some form of 'evidence-based' framework for clinical training and practice. However, the rise of evidence-based healthcare has drawn sustained criticism regarding the limits of trial based evidence, the reductive character of epidemiological study designs, and the potential for an erosion of the importance of lay perspectives and clinical judgement. Evidence-Based Healthcare in Context introduces readers to the social, cultural and historical underpinnings of 'evidence' in healthcare, critically examining questions about what constitutes 'evidence'; and 'effectiveness' from perspectives outside medicine, including those of patients, complementary medicine and midwifery. It focuses on the application of contemporary theoretical debates around the nature of medical and health knowledge, providing readers with a series of critical analyses of the production, application and translation of 'evidence' in a range of healthcare contexts. Featuring cutting edge work

from leading social scientists in the UK, US, Canada, Norway, Australia and New Zealand, this volume draws on the latest empirical research to provide a thorough critical overview of this important field of health research.

'The idea of supporting clinical practices with evidence is all too often uncritically accepted as a reality, equally appropriate and achievable in all contexts without consequence. This excellent collection reminds us that evidence is socially and culturally produced and relative and that the very idea of Evidence-Based Healthcare can marginalize certain practices, diseases, research disciplines and methods. This is a must-read for students, researchers and health professionals.' Gavin Andrews, McMaster University, Canada 'The long-standing tradition in sociology of critically examining the training of health professionals and the process of knowledge creation in the health field is given a new angle - how to utilise the different forms of available knowledge to most effectively care for patients. Developing critical social science perspectives, this book provides an innovative set of reflections on the various strategies health professionals utilize to retain their clinical integrity in the face of evidence-based reductions.' Nelson Filice de Barros, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil 'This book, edited by two Australian scholars, [...] provides many fresh views that complement the general picture of EBM and related areas. It demonstrates very well the nature of EBM as a social movement and the 'bumpy road' of the implementation of EBM and other models... The empirical part of the volume provides some really interesting and also surprising results. One example is from Stefan Timmermans and Alison Angell who show that the introduction of EBM in post-graduate medical education may generate new forms of uncertainty, which is, of course, contrary to the original idea of EBM... the book is essential reading for anybody interested in an 'outsider's' critical look at evidence-based healthcare.' *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy* About the Author Alex Broom is Professor of Sociology at the University of New South Wales, Australia. He is the co-editor of *Health, Culture and Religion in South Asia*; *Men's Health: Body, Identity and Social Context*; and *Gender and Masculinities: Histories, Texts and Practices in India and Sri Lanka*. He is the co-author of *Therapeutic Pluralism: Exploring the Experiences of Cancer Patients and Professionals*. Professor Jon Adams is at the Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Australia