
Although Money and Lamacz do not indicate their intended audience, the book’s cover suggests that it is aimed at sexologists. However, it is obvious that the book has a much wider appeal. It offers important insights for a large variety of professionals who intervene on a psychosocial level (professors who teach theory, practicing psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers, and so on).

After offering a history and fundamental explanation of paraphilia, the authors give a detailed history of seven cases. Each case description follows a common outline:

A. Diagnostic and Clinical Biography
B. Family Pathology
C. Biography of Social Development

D. Lovemap Biography*

E. Significance of the Case [a case summary divided into five parts]

The shared outline for each case study is helpful for comparative and conceptual purposes. Every case history is skillfully and vividly written and paints a clear picture of the patient.

The authors use an ecological systems model for analyzing the history of seven persons whose distress is biological in origin. Their effort is a major contribution not only to our knowledge of sexology, but also to the study of theory construction for all of the social and behavioral sciences. I will be recommending the book to colleagues who teach theory construction courses. *Vandalized Lovemaps* is also the best work I have seen using the ecological systems model. Because the model mandates that authors embrace a voluminous understanding of human behavior traversing biology, sociology and psychology, it requires them to present an encyclopedic account. They do an incredible job. I am truly impressed with their comprehensive approach to their task. In fact, I found only one minor weakness: The case description and analysis in Chapter 8 is not as comprehensive as that in other chapters.

The ecological systems model provides the theoretical foundation for the authors to illustrate the interconnectedness of highly diverse elements that mold man's development. In this manner, Money and Lamacz demonstrate that although biological/sexual forces have a tremendous impact on human development, these forces alone cannot fully explain sexual distress. Six of the cases discuss unfortunate genital malformations with corresponding severe social and psychological consequences—adverse consequences that cannot be traced to biology alone. Two key themes in these six cases are family pathology and unsatisfactory social bonds (or the total absence of social bonds).
Only one case (from Chapter 9) lacks these two themes. The patient described in this case developed social bonds. The patient's family could not be described as pathological. Was the absence of family pathology and the presence of reasonable social bonds the result of her having a relatively less serious distress? The reader is unsure, and perhaps the authors are too. However, we are led to the reasonable conclusion that although sexuality plays an extremely important role in human development, it does not tell the entire story. Deviation from biological/sexual norms may emerge at birth, but it is usually not problematic until the patient perceives it as such. If a male child must sit to urinate at school, other children become cruel to their peer with the micropenis. However, children are resilient. Most have the ability to defend themselves from such humiliation. Money and Lamacz clearly point out that emotional distress does not emerge solely from negative peer interaction.

However, the psyche cannot defend itself from a constant barrage of cruelty from distinct authoritarian sources. Parents may have an extreme reaction to the problem and become overprotective or uncaring. Unwillingness to discuss painful issues with children increases the pain. Parental emphasis on the distress inhibits the child from forming needed social bonds. Medical staff can cause damage also. A physician's innocent or careless remark can be indelibly written upon a child's mind; a child may remember a brief comment long into adulthood. The authors note that comments physicians make, such as "Are you satisfied with the size of your penis?" (to a patient with a micropenis) and "You definitely have female hands" (to a patient with gender identity problems) are unquestionably devastating. The authors imply that today medical staff are better equipped to handle such disorders and to offer help to parents. Thus parents may now be better able to talk to their child.

Why are doctors and parents able to do better? It is partly because of the magnificent contributions made by authors
like John Money. *Vandalized Lovemaps* is a qualitative longitudinal study that has implications for both practice and scholarly research. It demonstrates and recommends new approaches to providing intervention to children (and their families). It demonstrates the importance and effective application of theory. The authors rightly perceive sexuality as one extremely important part—indeed, crucial part—of human ecology.

**Note**

The term “lovemap” was coined by Money. He defines it as “a developmental representation or template, synchronously functional in the mind and the brain, depicting the idealized lover, the idealized love affair, and the idealized program or sexuoerotic activity with that lover, projected in imagery and ideation, or in actual performance” [page 43].