

Aliens, Alienists – and Alienation: a critical and cross-cultural perspective of psychopathology

Keith Tudor

SUMMARY: This article questions the reliance that psychologists, psychotherapists and others in the 'psy' professions have come to have on medicine and, specifically, on medical and psychiatric understanding of 'illness', 'pathology', and 'disorder.' The article positions psychopathology in terms of alienation. Based on a keynote speech delivered in Japan by a Westerner who lives in the Southern hemisphere, the article considers alienation from a cross-cultural perspective.

KEY WORDS: alienation; aliens; alienists; psychopathology; Marxism; radical psychiatry

I was particularly grateful for the invitation for a keynote presentation (Tudor, 2015) to come from the Land of the Long White Cloud (Aotearoa New Zealand) to the Land of the Rising Sun (Japan) as for me, symbolically speaking, this completes an intellectual journey that now encompasses all four points of the compass.

North

I am a Northerner both in the sense that I was born and grew up in the Northern hemisphere, and, within the British Isles, lived most of my life in the North of England, where Northerners have a reputation of being hard and hardy – in the sense of being robust.

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