

TAVISTOCK POLICY SEMINARS

'CONNECTING PUBLIC POLICY AND HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS'

“Adolescents in distress: Britain on the slide?”

PRESENTERS

Robert Goodman, Institute of Psychiatry
Stephen Briggs, Tavistock Clinic Adolescent Department

Date: Thursday, June 30 2005. 6 - 8pm

Venue: The Tavistock Centre, Lecture Theatre

Why is the mental health of adolescents in Britain deteriorating? Lying and stealing amongst 15 - 16 year olds has doubled in the past 30 years in all family types and social classes.

Robert Goodman and his colleagues analysed data from national surveys undertaken in 1974, 1986 and 1999* and concluded that the changes could not simply be attributed to measurement problems or reporting bias. In contrast to the British findings, international comparisons, particularly with the Netherlands and USA (though in USA levels are consistently higher than in UK) show no such deterioration.

** Collishaw S, Maughan B, Goodman R, & Pickles A. (2004) Time trends in adolescent mental health. Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry 45, 1350*

Professor Robert Goodman PhD FRCPsych is Professor of Brain and Behavioural Medicine at the Institute of Psychiatry, London. Though his clinical work is focused on the psychological effects of cerebral palsy in childhood, his academic work has spanned genetics, neurobiology, epidemiology and health services research. He has played a leading role in the nationwide British child mental health surveys, and in similar surveys elsewhere in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

Stephen Briggs PhD is Senior Clinical Lecturer in Social Work and Vice Dean in The Tavistock Clinic's Adolescent Department. He is involved in clinical work, teaching and research in the Department, and has a particular research interest in suicidality in adolescence. He has written 'Working with Adolescents; A Contemporary Psychodynamic Approach (Palgrave 2002) and 'Real Life Issues: addictions' (Trotman Publishing 2005).

PROGRAMME

Seminars will begin at 6pm with the main presentations. There will be a short break for refreshments at 6.45pm after which the seminar will resume with an open dialogue and end with brief commentaries from the speakers.

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