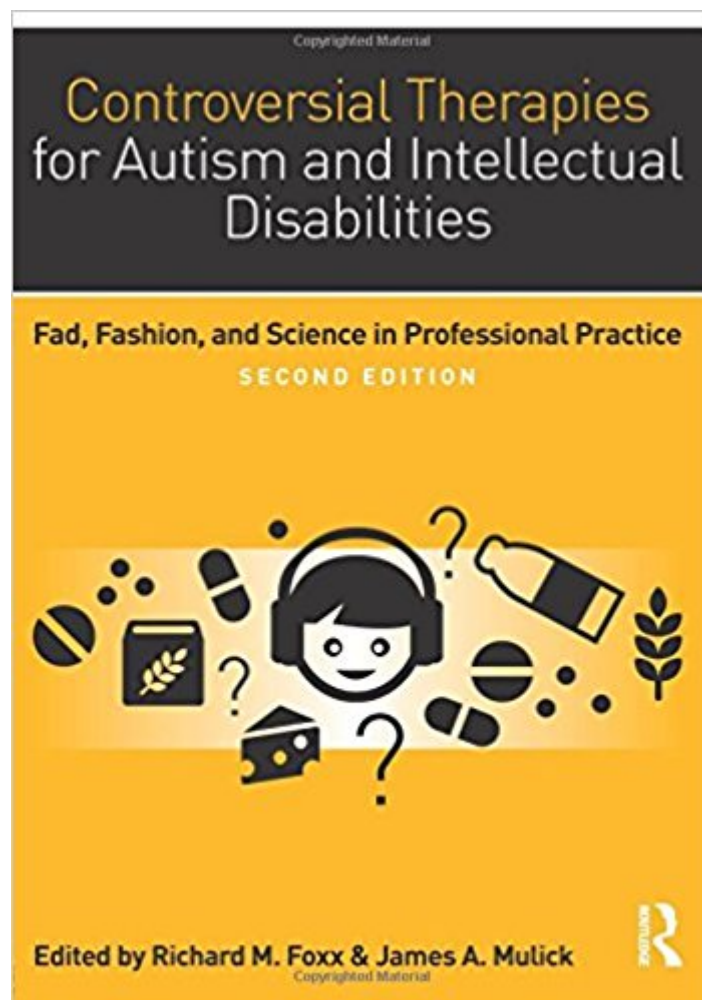


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Controversial Therapies For Autism And Intellectual Disabilities: Fad, Fashion, And Science In Professional Practice



Synopsis

One of the largest and most complex human services systems in history has evolved to address the needs of people with autism and intellectual disabilities, yet important questions remain for many professionals, administrators, and parents. What approaches to early intervention, education, treatment, therapy, and remediation really help those with autism and other intellectual disabilities improve their functioning and adaptation? Alternatively, what approaches represent wastes of time, effort, and resources? *Controversial Therapies for Autism and Intellectual Disabilities, 2nd Edition* brings together leading behavioral scientists and practitioners to shed much-needed light on the major controversies surrounding these questions. Expert authors review the origins, perpetuation, and resistance to scrutiny of questionable practices, and offer a clear rationale for appraising the quality of various services. The second edition of *Controversial Therapies for Autism and Intellectual Disabilities* has been fully revised and updated and includes entirely new chapters on psychology fads, why applied behavioral analysis is not a fad, rapid prompting, relationship therapies, the gluten-free, casein-free diet, evidence based practices, state government regulation of behavioral treatment, teaching ethics, and a parents' primer for autism treatments.

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Customer Reviews

"This newly updated and revised volume represents a truly important contribution to the professions of education, psychology, medicine, and even law. Its rich case examples serve as classroom exercises for enhancing critical thinking and teaching scientific research design for behavioral

scientists. By debunking problematic treatments that lack empirical support and contradicting social media fads, these experts advocate for enhanced scientific approaches that could lead to the improvement of services for children with autism and intellectual disabilities and their families."

--Michael C. Roberts, PhD., ABPP, University of Kansas, USA "Whenever conventional medical treatments fail to provide satisfactory outcomes, patients seek alternative treatments. The field of intellectual disabilities is ripe for such alternatives, sometimes developed by well-intentioned health professionals and sometimes not. Foxx and Mulick and their chapter authors provide a thorough look at what is out there, where it came from, and the problems with many of these proposed treatments. This book should be in the office of anyone delivering care to individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities. It will help separate the wheat from the chaff in choosing treatments and in advising and counseling families seeking guidance." --Daniel L. Coury, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at The Ohio State University, and Chief of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics at Nationwide Children's Hospital, USA

Richard M. Foxx, Ph.D., is Professor of Psychology at Penn State University Harrisburg and Clinical Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics in the College of Medicine at Pennsylvania State University in Hershey, Pennsylvania, USA. He was the recipient of the American Psychological Association's Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Applied Research in 2013. James A. Mulick, Ph.D., is Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Psychology at The Ohio State University and a pediatric psychology expert at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. He received the 2009 John W. Jacobson Award for Critical Thinking from the American Psychological Association Division on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Fear not the strange and anti-scientific reviewers who score this book with one star! Such individuals represent precisely the sorts (and source) of problems in the helping professions. Professionals, families and other stakeholders affected by ASD have especially been duped into believing in faddish "cures" and unconventional treatment methods. This problem historically has obstructed the progression of understanding and reliable application of effective methods for learners with ASD. The tendency toward unproven and disproven treatments has had harmful, dangerous, and sometimes fatal outcomes. The nefarious legacy and recent resurgence of facilitated communication (FC) perhaps best exemplifies how pseudoscience impinges on special education practice. Alternatively, scientific values and methodology are useful for preventing the spread of worthless and harmful interventions and establishing a repository of

interventions supported by verifiable explanations. This special education scientific movement reflects intentions to positively influence how professionals support and educate learners with ASD. In many respects this important prophylactic role parallels the Hippocratic Oath:

“First do no harm.” This book is an excellent step toward realizing this ethical precept. This book outlays the failings of education and related professions in explicit and sometimes entertaining ways, but concerns about the proliferation of nonsense remain the focus. Special education and related professionals should take notice; this book is eye-opening, useful, and one of the most important in the field.~Jason C. Travers, PhD

Excellent resource for anyone with the goal of helping those who need it most. This text helps wade through the huge amounts of pseudoscience and fraud out there in the helping professions. Casting aside snake oil and worse doesn't always make one popular, as some reviews for this book show; however, if you want to protect yourself against wasted time, money, and possible harm to your clients or loved ones, this is the book for you.

Must have for every behavior analyst whether academic or practitioner, covers all the fads and frauds in autism treatment.

There is a lot of replication from the first edition.

My daughter who is in applied behavioral analysis requested this for Christmas. I'm sure she will love it!

What better title could a book have to set the scene for what one finds inside. Herein lies story upon story of why the work of thousands of practitioners, the experiences of thousands of parents and the opportunities achieved by thousands of people labelled with all manner medical terms is simply worthless. Caste this nonsense aside this tome invokes, trust only the scientific, the reasoned, that which we say we can prove, for here all ye shall find salvation and enlightenment. The problem with this treatise is that much of what this book critiques has been helpful and useful to people. It may not fit the nice neat mind of academic rigor or traditional medical inquiry but there are thousands around the world whose lives are the better for those who were bold enough to break out of these narrow strictures. If that were not enough, possibly the most upsetting is the recording of people's experiences out of context and clearly without the author's having spoken to them to gain some

understanding of how the techniques or strategies so heavily criticised have changed the person's life. Then equating that (for example in the case of FC) with the tricks performed by animals. While the book purports to be a benchmark in scientific evidence based practice, it is littered with personal opinion and inuendo. Deeply saddened that this will be used in the education of students.

These "expert authors" (or more accurately, armchair critics) might do better to share data on their own "proven" therapies. Rubbish, this book.

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