
Book Reviews / Comptes rendus

Cottone, R., & Tarvydas, V. (1998). *Ethical and Professional Issues in Counseling*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill/Prentice-Hall. ISBN: 0-13-569138-9

Reviewed by: John C. Gawthrop, Camosun College.

Texts devoted to ethical issues are becoming a familiar sight on bookstore shelves on university and college campuses, reflecting the increased acceptance of ethics as an essential component of counsellor training programs. *Ethical and Professional Issues in Counseling* is a new addition to this specialized genre aimed at students, ethics teachers and practitioners alike.

Although the authors of this 400-page survey are practitioner/academics with backgrounds in rehabilitation counselling, they manage to keep the text free of an inordinate bias toward that specialty. Instead, the authors and their contributors present, in plain, jargon-free language, a broad cross-section of current and emerging issues in the counselling field: credentialing, ethical principles and concepts, legislation, values, decision making, practice in health-care settings, and organizational ethics. They also touch on the new technologies and phenomena such as the World Wide Web, as well as addressing ethics in counselling specialties ranging from group work to addictions.

While the authors also claim to be exploring ethical issues unique to counselling, I remain unconvinced: issues similar to those treated in this book are also relevant to psychology and allied mental health professions. Nevertheless, there is still much to recommend this volume to beginning and seasoned practitioners as well as students in ethics. Among the book's strengths are a generous assortment of codes and standards for comparison and analysis; a primer on the philosophical foundations of modern professional ethics; and numerous case studies.

In the chapter on ethical decision-making processes, the authors offer an "Integrative" decision-making model for approaching ethical dilemmas, bringing together elements from other models, including that used by the Canadian Psychological Association in its Code of Ethics. The result is a basic risk-benefit analysis, festooned with wider considerations for the practitioner to take into account. A full fifteen steps in length, the Integrative model may prove too comprehensive to be readily adopted by practitioners for day-to-day use; however, it appears at first reading to be an excellent tool of ethical analysis and the authors at least walk the reader through a case scenario using their own model.

Only three items would seem to detract from this otherwise useful addition to the ethics literature. First, the authors list several contributors to the text, but I could find no apparent connection between each contributor and his or her specific contribution to the text. Second, some of the citations at the end of each chapter could use some updating; for example, some referenced works have gone through subsequent editions since the year

mentioned. Third, the treatment of American legal issues and case law as they apply to counselling and ethical practice tends to limit its application for a Canadian audience. But the focus on American case law in this book *does* serve to raise the reader's awareness of and increase understanding of generic legal concepts and also invites comparison with some recent trends in Canadian case law.

In summary, perhaps the most useful aspect of this book is its invitation to readers to consider ethical issues as inherent to counselling, and also its treatment of the classical roots of modern professional ethics. Not many authors in the ethics literature have bothered with the latter; the present authors have done us a service by showing how matters of consequence in antiquity are relevant to what goes on in the modern therapist's office.

Evans, D. R. (1997). *The Law, Standards of Practice, and Ethics in the Practice of Psychology*. Toronto: Edmond Montgomery Publications Limited. ISBN 0-920722-94-6

Reviewed by: Roy V. Ferguson, University of Victoria.

This book, a first of its type in Canada, is the result of dedicated work by coordinating author Dr. David R. Evans (from the Clinical Psychology Program at the University of Western Ontario) with contributions from eleven colleagues, most of whom are practitioners rather than lawyers. The book examines statutory and case law, regulations, standards, ethics and guidelines as they apply to the practice of psychology in Ontario. Rather than maintaining a primary focus on key legislation within the province, the author wisely chose to organize the book around typical psychological activities and issues. Consequently, the material has greater appeal and applicability to practitioners. The book opens with an historical perspective of the development of ethical codes, standards of professional conduct, and regulatory legislation. It then moves to a review of the regulation of psychology in Ontario with particular reference to The Psychology Act (1991), which is included as an appendix. This review is followed by an examination of sexual and non-sexual dual relationships with practical examples and a discussion of issues provided. Again, relevant legislation, standards, and ethics relating to dual relationships are included in an appendix.

The book's middle chapters deal with a broad range of issues of relevance to clinical practitioners, including informed consent, confidentiality, and an examination of the issues relating to client information and records—including a look at access and privacy legislation as they apply to clinical practice. Among other topics covered are the role of codes of conduct and ethical guidelines, custody and access assessments, the assessment of young offenders, and the treatment of correctional clients. The final three chapters of the book examine the business aspects of practice, the practitioner as expert witness, and, finally, action and counteraction relating to malpractice.