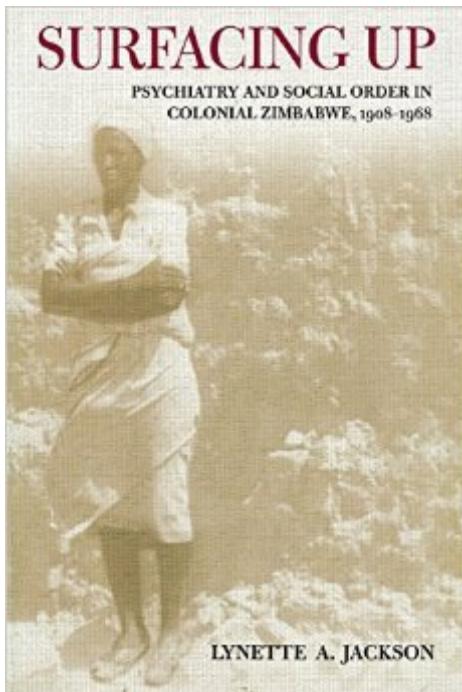


The book was found

Surfacing Up: Psychiatry And Social Order In Colonial Zimbabwe, 1908-1968 (Cornell Studies In The History Of Psychiatry)



Synopsis

Focusing on the history of the Ingutsheni Lunatic Asylum (renamed a mental hospital after 1933), situated near Bulawayo in the former Southern Rhodesia, *Surfacing Up* explores the social, cultural, and political history of the colony that became Zimbabwe after gaining its independence in 1980. The phrase "surfacing up" was drawn from a conversation Lynette A. Jackson had with a psychiatric nurse who used the concept to explain what brought African potential patients into the psychiatric system. Jackson uses Ingutsheni as a reference point for the struggle to "domesticate" Africa and its citizens after conquest. Drawing on the work of Frantz Fanon, Jackson maintains that the asylum in Southern Rhodesia played a significant role in maintaining the colonial social order. She supports Fanon's claim that colonial psychiatric hospitals were repositories for those of "indocile nature" or for those who failed to fit "the social background of the colonial type." Through reconstruction and reinterpretation of patient narratives, Jackson shows how patients were diagnosed, detained, and deemed recovered. She draws on psychiatric case files to analyze the changing economic, social, and environmental conditions of the colonized, the varying needs of the white settlers, and the shifting boundaries between these two communities. She seeks to extend and enrich our understanding of how a significant institution changed the way citizens and subjects experienced the colonial social order.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Well written and persuasive, "Surfacing up" offers a clear look at the ways in which psychiatry and

the Ingutsheni Asylum mirrored and perpetuated colonial rule and thought in Zimbabwe. An engrossing read;

The best research and research methods engage the heart, mind and soul. Dr. Jacksonâ™s Surfacing Up is a fine example of the product or products actually; there are so many great stories brought to the surface by her exceptional work. Publication of Surfacing Up is one of those markers, of what has has been done and a guide on future paths ... stories now told, stories to be told. On the logistics of reading, I donâ™t know why but I started by perusing the index and just went to words I liked, turned out to be a great way to navigate the trove of stories shared here.

I found this book to be well written and engaging. There are lessons we can learn and apply today about the affect of power on seemingly benign social institutions.

This book is an interesting and easy to read account of psychiatry in colonial Zimbabwe, but the copy I received had many of the pages stuck together. I threw away the packaging when I checked and found that I had received the correct item. But when I was reading it on the plane, I found that every ten pages or so, the pages had not been properly separated and had to be literally torn apart in order to continue reading. I love the book, but after one reading it's so tattered that it's unusable. I'm not sure whether this is a consistent problem with the paperback edition or whether I happened to get a defective copy.

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