

## **Rethinking Mental Disorders: Educating leaders on the ethical implications of psychopathology**

- I. Introduction
- II. Mental Disorders as Intrinsic to the Human Condition
  - a. Why this account is helpful and needed
  - b. Madness is not self-enclosed
    - i. “Mythical or dreamlike consciousness, madness [*la folie*], despite all their differences, are not self-enclosed [*ne sont pas fermées sur elles-mêmes*]; they are not islands of experience without any communication and from which one cannot escape . . . mythical consciousness opens onto a horizon of possible objectifications.”<sup>1</sup>
    - ii. My body may be in one place, “but this landscape is not necessarily the landscape of our life. I can ‘be elsewhere’ while remaining here, and if I am kept far from what I love, I feel far from the center of real life.”<sup>2</sup>
  - c. Madness is an expression of the human condition
    - i. “[Madness] is a projection of existence and an expression of the human condition.”<sup>3</sup>
    - ii. “Madness is a possibility of man without which he would not be what he is.”<sup>4</sup>
  - d. Madness still uses the structures of the world
    - i. “[M]adness gravitates around the world . . . [the patients] still make use of the structures of being in the world [*l’être au monde*].”<sup>5</sup>
- III. Equipping Ethical Leaders
  - a. Increasing Personal Awareness
    - i. “[We] can help [the patient] only if we understand his problem as that of a human being, like ourselves, whose whole relation to his . . . world has become disordered . . . mental disorder can then be conceived as problems in human beings in the world, which other human beings can understand in virtue of their common humanity, and can help with on the basis of that understanding.”<sup>6</sup>
  - b. Seeking Holistic Help
  - c. Incorporating into the Community

---

<sup>1</sup> Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*, trans. Donald A. Landes (London: Routledge, 2012), 305; French: Merleau-Ponty, *Phénoménologie de la perception* (Paris: Gallimard, 1945), 345.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 299.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 306.

<sup>4</sup> Henri Maldiney, *Regard, parole, espace* (Lausanne: Editions l’âge d’homme, 1973), 210. French: “La folie est une possibilité de l’homme sans laquelle il ne serait pas ce qu’il est.”

<sup>5</sup> Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*, 306; French: 346.

<sup>6</sup> Eric Matthews, “Merleau-Ponty’s body-subject and psychiatry,” *International Review of Psychiatry* 16, no. 3 (2004), 196, 198.