

Interveners in Mental Health and Psychiatry as an interface in a colonial order

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Abstract

This article analyzes the changes in Mental Health and Psychiatry in Chile in recent decades, from a genealogical approach that accounts for the social and historical conditions that have enabled these changes. The objective is to visit the historical practices of confinement as punishment and social control, medicine and psychiatry, to understand the current model of Mental Health and Community Psychiatry. The method consisted of an ethnographic approach to a Center for Mental Health and Community Psychiatry (CESAMCO) seeking to link objects and technologies found in the genealogical exercise and from there to account for current practices of professionals in this field. The result shows that despite the changes that have existed throughout the history of the Chilean state around social intervention, the colonial element remains in validating practices. We conclude that the changes in mental health and psychiatry maintain the generator matrix of modernity/coloniality, specifically with regard to the desirable subjectivities that guide intervention processes. In this plays a central role the rather than disappearance of enunciation practitioners.

Keywords: Psychiatry, mental health, government, coloniality.

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