



## Psychiatry: The Science of Lies

By Thomas Szasz

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### Psychiatry: The Science of Lies By Thomas Szasz

For more than a half century Thomas Szasz has devoted much of his career to a thorough and provocative critique of the practice of psychiatry. In many ways his latest work, *Psychiatry: The Science of Lies*, is a culmination of his life's work: to portray the integral role of deception in the history and practice of psychiatry. Szasz argues that the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness stands in the same relationship to the diagnosis and treatment of bodily illness that the forgery of a painting stands to the original masterpiece. Art historians, museum directors, private collectors, and the legal system all seek to distinguish forgeries from originals. Those concerned with medicine on the other hand-physicians, patients, politicians, health insurance providers, and legal professionals-take the opposite stance when faced with the challenge of distinguishing everyday problems in living from diseases of the body, systematically authenticating nondiseases as diseases. The boundary between disease and nondisease - genuine and imitation, original and copy, truth and falsehood - thus becomes arbitrary, shifting, and uncertain.

With a wealth of well-researched new evidence, Szasz examines the ways in which dishonesty and misrepresentation have permeated all aspects of psychiatric practice: the doctors, the patients, and even at times those who work to uncover psychiatric abuse. Delivering his sophisticated analysis in lucid prose and with a sharp wit, Szasz continues to engage and challenge readers of all backgrounds.

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## **Psychiatry: The Science of Lies By Thomas Szasz Bibliography**

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

[Thomas Szasz] is the preeminent critic of psychiatry in the world. -- *Richard Vatz, Towson University*

### About the Author

Thomas Szasz is professor emeritus of psychiatry at the State University of New York's Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York. His books include *Law, Liberty, and Psychiatry*, *The Manufacture of Madness, Ideology, and Insanity*, *Ceremonial Chemistry*, *The Myth of Psychotherapy*, and *Pharmacracy*, all published by Syracuse University Press.

### From [AudioFile](#)

Author Thomas Szasz has spent a long academic career demonizing the concepts of mental illness, the treatments for it, and the "charlatan" professionals who benefit from such beliefs. He claims that psychoanalysis, with a patient talking to a therapist who pretends to believe it all, results in two people colluding in a mutual charade. Szasz's unconventional and well-argued views have brought him understandable criticism from recognized psychiatric groups. Narrator Tom Weiner overestimates his listeners' familiarity with the complex terminology of the field by reading it quickly, albeit accurately. Since Freud wrote in German, some of his words have not been translated. Weiner stumbles on the occasional German, but he shines with British English and French. Weiner's bombastic performance may induce occasional humorous moments. J.A.H. © AudioFile 2010, Portland, Maine

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