

REVIEWS

Fragmented Intimacy: Addiction in a Social World

Springer , 2008 , 339 pp. , ISBN 978-0-387-72660-1

“Most work on addiction concentrates on individuals, primarily the addict but also family members or the family conceived as an individual entity. In this useful and informative book, Peter Adams introduces a different approach—one that concentrates on relationships. The book illustrates how by taking this approach we can more clearly see the ways in which an addict's relationship with an addictive substance or process can affect the addict's relationships with other people and aspects of their life. But this is not all, it also illustrates how the addict's strengthening relationship to the addictive substance can affect the relationships of those close to him or her (for example, the relationships between family members of the addict)...”

“As the book progresses the subject matter becomes more and more applied. Later chapters make use of the approach introduced earlier to illustrate some of the features of addictive relationships, and show how this approach can aid our understanding both of what is going on in such relationships and some of the problems with standard ways of dealing with addiction. These chapters are the most interesting in the book as they demonstrate the practical value of adopting a relationship centred approach. In doing this they help to show that this approach can pick up on aspects of addiction that are missed (or not fully understood) when using a more standard approach to addiction because they don't fit into the individualistic paradigm that is being used to assess it from that perspective...”

Tom Walker (Keele University, UK, 2009), *Addiction*, 104(4), 677-678 [Publisher Link](#)

“Peter Adams... takes the radical view that treating an addictive individual alone without mobilizing that person's social environment is almost bound to fail...”

“Adams explores the social dimension in long and loving detail, the theory softened throughout by the case histories of two couples and two pairs of parent/children...”

“If you want an exciting read, this is it. The author is an enthusiast who has no illusions about the challenges of people, resources and money needed to set up and above all continue such a socially oriented scheme, which may take years to rescue the individual sufferer. Are the professionals prepared to take the initiative?”

Alex Paton (2009), *Alcohol and Alcoholism* 44(4):435 [Publisher Link](#)