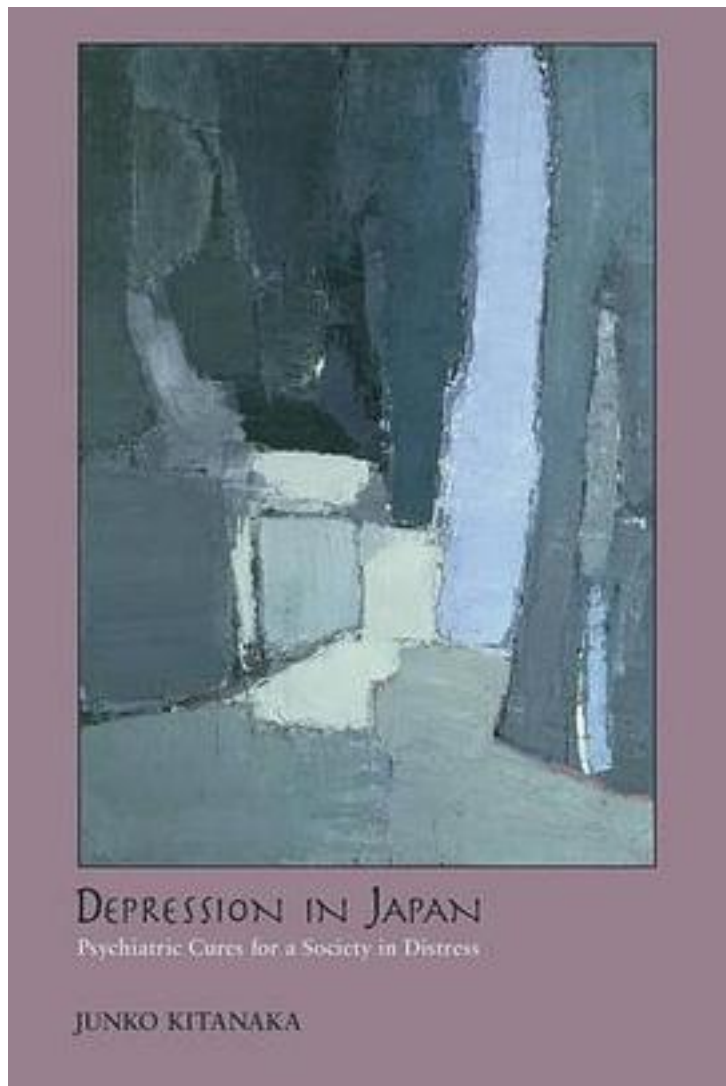


Depression in Japan



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著者:Junko Kitanaka

出版者:Princeton University Press

出版时间:2011-10-16

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780691142050

Since the 1990s, suicide in recession-plagued Japan has soared, and rates of depression have both increased and received greater public attention. In a nation that has traditionally been uncomfortable addressing mental illness, what factors have allowed for the rising medicalization of depression and suicide? Investigating these profound changes from historical, clinical, and sociolegal perspectives, "Depression in Japan" explores how depression has become a national disease and entered the Japanese lexicon, how psychiatry has responded to the nation's ailing social order, and how, in a remarkable transformation, psychiatry has overcome the longstanding resistance to its intrusion in Japanese life. Questioning claims made by Japanese psychiatrists that depression hardly existed in premodern Japan, Junko Kitanaka shows that Japanese medicine did indeed have a language for talking about depression which was conceived of as an illness where psychological suffering was intimately connected to physiological and social distress. The author looks at how Japanese psychiatrists now use the discourse of depression to persuade patients that they are victims of biological and social forces beyond their control; analyzes how this language has been adopted in legal discourse surrounding "overwork suicide"; and considers how, in contrast to the West, this language curiously emphasizes the suffering of men rather than women. Examining patients' narratives, Kitanaka demonstrates how psychiatry constructs a gendering of depression, one that is closely tied to local politics and questions of legitimate social suffering. Drawing upon extensive research in psychiatric institutions in Tokyo and the surrounding region, "Depression in Japan" uncovers the emergence of psychiatry as a force for social transformation in Japan.

作者介绍:

Junko Kitanaka(北中淳子), McGill University PhD, now is an associate professor in the Department of Human Sciences at Keio University, Tokyo.

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violence

评论

作者自己就在简化depression，depression和suicide的关系感觉没处理好，我同学觉得大篇幅说历史上的depression从气滞到抑郁症，除了表示认识论上的变化，没啥必要。

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书评

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