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Implicancia de la Perspectiva de Género en las prácticas de Salud Mental y Terapia Ocupacional

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Introduction: The matter of madness in Argentina arises in the so called society of "Order and Progress". The assistance was organized around the values and aspirations of the state, the society and the groups of power of each period, and it was based on central topics like the disease, the deviations from the ordinary and its undesirable consequences. Confinement constituted the effective way to control those persons who were outside the norm. Children and poor women were the first area of attention of discourse and of both medical and assistance practices.

Objectives: to analyze the impact of the representations of gender in the field of mental health and its relationship with Occupational Therapy practices.

Description: This paper will present a historic account on the treatment of the mental suffering from the perspective of gender. It will be taken as axes of analysis the assistance models and the diverse representations of the mental illness. It will also include the political and material conditions which delimited manners of attention which tended to make invisible the logics of the relations of gender. These manners of attention also affected the development of Occupational Therapy.

Discussion: The constitutive elements of the concept of gender make it possible to identify the assistance logics, aimed to give response to the problems of mental health, as replicators of the structure of power and domination characteristic of gender relations.

Conclusion: The logic behind the matter of gender - based on the opposition femininity/masculinity- is reflected on the logic health / disease, normal / abnormal.

In health processes occupations have a basic function as they enable patients to entry in a certain cultural order. They also reveal the tension among the social aspect, the community and the individual aspect.

Contribution: This paper will provide analytical categories to denaturalize / identify essentialized patterns, and also to consider the gender perspective in the practice of Occupational Therapy especially when the aim is to achieve health, inclusion / social integration or rehabilitation standards.