

About Psychosis

It is the medical condition that distinguishes serious mental illness (SMI) from all other types of mental illnesses. It is this symptom in its most exacerbated state that is directly responsible for some of the most horrific acts of violence against the self or others.

It is troubling and frankly, shocking, that there are credentialed professionals in the world of psychology who do not understand the critical importance of this distinction.

[Link: Serious Mental Illness Not A Priority?](#)

Thankfully, there are advocates such as the distinguished DJ Jaffe who understand that a symptomatic act of violence that results in loss of life much more serious than the loss of a job or a home due to debilitating reactive depression or anxiety.

[Link: Don't call me a "mental health" advocate](#)

We need to talk about this distinction because all of the discourse about mental illness that is going on at present is enabling us to cloak our society's criminally abusive actions toward those with SMI behind a smokescreen of ignorance and abstraction. Advocates for people with SMI refer to the 4%, the much smaller subgroup of people with a mental illness diagnosis that have been left behind to become victims of misguided laws and public policies, to be homeless and to be cruelly and unjustly punished.

This page focuses on the topic of psychosis so that we venture beyond the rhetorical and the argumentative case against criminalization. Understanding SMI requires depth perception, something many of our legislators, policy-makers, and operators in the criminal justice system do not have on this topic. An individual can acquire a vast amount of "knowledge" about serious mental illness yet retain an undimensional (flat) conceptualization of SMI

This page will be "under construction" indefinitely as content is added.

For starters, we ask the reader to contemplate the state of being detached from reality. In our 'Adding Insult to Injury' blog article ([Adding Insult To Injury](#))we speak of how the language of

mental illness that we use in common discourse contributes to lack of understanding of SMI. Most people would conceive of detachment from reality as being psychological – not neurological. Few people conceive of neurological separation from reality where mental illness is concerned. Most people probably have a vague intuitive sense of conditions such as autism or dementia as neurocognitive, but gross misconceptions of Schizophrenia in particular and psychosis in general continue to prevail even in the most informed and educated among us.