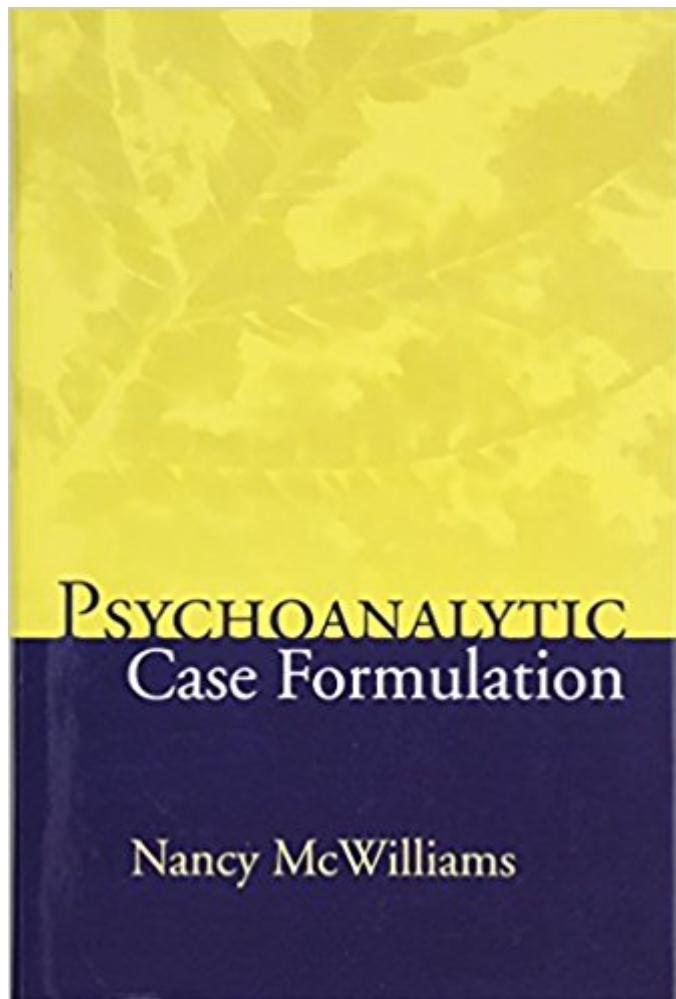


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# Psychoanalytic Case Formulation



## Synopsis

What kinds of questions do experienced therapists ask themselves when facing a new client? How can clinical expertise be taught? From the author of the landmark *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis*, this book takes clinicians step-by- step through developing an understanding of each client's unique psychology and using this information to guide and inform treatment decisions. McWilliams shows that while seasoned practitioners rely upon established diagnostic categories for record-keeping and insurance purposes, their actual clinical concepts and practices reflect more inferential, subjective, and intuitive processes. Interweaving illustrative case examples with theoretical insights and clinically significant research, chapters cover assessment of client temperament, developmental issues, defenses, affects, identifications, relational patterns, self-esteem needs, and pathogenic beliefs. Winner--Gradiva Award, National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Books by Nancy McWilliams used in unison make the best psychodynamic resources I have yet encountered in more than 60 years in the field."--Robert C. Lane, PhD, Department of Psychology, Nova Southeastern University"This beautifully written, uniquely accessible guide to the psychoanalytic understanding of clinical cases will be of immense value to students and practitioners of all theoretical persuasions. I predict it will be among the most important and widely used books in this field for years to come." --George E. Atwood, PhD, Professor of Psychology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey"Psychoanalytic Case Formulation is a worthy

successor to Psychoanalytic Diagnosis. Nancy McWilliams has a pellucid writing style that brings complex concepts within the easy grasp of the reader. She has produced a book that is intelligently psychoanalytic without being restricted to any single vision of psychoanalysis. The critical concepts are developed well and the issues important to assessment--a concept that goes well beyond diagnosis--are explicated clearly and helpfully. This is a rare book that can serve as a text for beginning students and still has much to offer to accomplished professionals." --George Stricker, PhD, The Derner Institute, Adelphi University, Garden City, NY

Also From Nancy Mcwilliams- Psychoanalytic Diagnosis Understanding Personality Structure in the Clinical Process, 398 Pages, 1994, Hardcover ISBN 0-89862-199-2, Cat. #2199, \$40.00. A successful attempt to bring together the many strands of contemporary psychoanalytic investigation of the nature and psychotherapeutic treatment of character pathology. Readable and informative....[An] excellent primer (Otto F. Kernberg, MD).

When I was in graduate school, everyone kept saying "Read Nancy McWilliams!" I'm sad that I ignored the suggestion until later. Had this been the first book I read in school, my education would have felt a lot more organized and I would have had a solid foundation. Mental health fields pull from so many disparate foundations that students can easily become confused. What people say about McWilliams' ability to take convoluted, even archaic, concepts and make them meaningful and accessible is absolutely on point.

Nancy Williams is a great writer. I've used this and another one of her books to teach students about psychodynamic theory and case formulation. Dr. Williams writes about this dense and difficult information in a way that's easily accessible to even a novice. She provides plenty of examples so the material is clearly illustrated and comes to life. Definitely recommend!

The author has a special talent to write guidelines and manuals. I do not know analogous books written in English or in French, either German. Here we have an excellent manual for psychoanalytic candidates, who naturally have difficulties to verbalize, to explicit, and to structure their first clinical cases presentations. The book is extremely valuable not only for the psychoanalytical candidates, but also for teaching psychoanalyst, even for those from other, than the author, psychoanalytical schools: it's always easier to interweave your specific threads, when somebody so talented already weaved such a rich and clear canvas.

Few books on \*psychoanalytic\* therapy offer such an excellent combination of theory and \*application\*. Want to know what to do in therapy once you recognize your patient's defenses, patterns, level of self-esteem, issues with affect, etc? Get this book. You do not know basic psychoanalytic tenets? The theory is there as well. Some people think this book is only for beginners. I disagree. It seems simple because McWilliams is a gifted writer and teacher, and has a knack to explain the most difficult concepts with everyday language that a 6 year old would understand. If you want an easy read with a lot of substance, read McWilliams. If you want a painful read with little substance, read Lacan (haha.) I am a beginner therapist, and this book has helped me immensely. The professor that recommended it has been practising for 35 years and \*still\* finds it useful. (Note: he is a renowned clinician and scholar... not just anybody) Every sentence counts. There is no superfluous material here. You get your every penny's worth of information. The book is also a page-turner--since when is a textbook supposed to be this enjoyable??? And McWilliams, who is obviously comfortable in her own skin, does not show the dogmatism that is typical in other writers. She is open to admit the usefulness of other approaches to therapy, and this very openness makes this text a useful resource for anyone interested in psychotherapy, even if they are coming from a different approach (cognitive behavioral, humanistic...).

As a student of counseling techniques, the perspective on psychoanalytic practice from non-analytic authors has been absolutely dreadful. Textbooks on psychotherapy seem to agree that psychoanalytic therapy is only making someone lie on a sofa and then not talking to them, while pocketing fees -- but the reality is that psychoanalytic psychotherapy is a rich and diverse body of practices with literally thousands of published scientific studies to back up the interventions and case formulations. McWilliams is at the forefront of the integrative psychoanalytic profession, bridging various schools of psychodynamic and psychoanalytic research and practice, and she writes beautifully. This is a great text to orient the beginning therapist in building a nuanced multi-faceted evaluation of the factors influencing the clients or patients one sees. Without a broad and large perspective, you can't deliver effective therapy of any sort -- and McWilliams goes a great job of reminding us to look at the clients from all angles, social or psychological or medical, as well as the dimension of personality and personality functioning.

I absolutely LOVE this book! I am a psychology student who wants to expand my knowledge outside the classroom and I have come across a few bad psychology books but this is a really good

one. It is written and organized really well. She portrayed her ideas very well and gave great examples to back them up. It was very interesting and definitely made me want to keep reading. Definitely one to keep for a long time.

As usual, Nancy McWilliams, writes with clarity, precision and elucidates complicated concepts very well.

Very satisfied customer!

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