

## Summary

# **The social construction of categories of mental health, disease and disorder in late-modernity society**

This dissertation can be read on at least two levels. Firstly, it concerns the social construction of categories of mental health, mental illness and mental disorder in contemporary society, known as late or reflexive modernity and the contradictions within this process. Secondly, this work attempts to understand contemporary society through the prism of mental health problems.

The author reconstructs the process of giving meaning to the categories of mental health, mental illness and mental disorder from many possible points of view. Theoretical studies which are a part of the theses consist of analysis of mental health problems from the perspective of leading sociological paradigms (functional structuralism, conflict theory, interpretativism) and theory of late (reflexive) modernity.

Empirical studies include perspectives of different social actors involved in the above-mentioned process: members of a representative sample of contemporary Polish society, individuals who have experienced mental health problems, members of their families and persons performing the roles of experts in the field of mental health (psychologists, psychiatrists, psychotherapists).

The material presented in this book can have a variety of uses, ranging from purely cognitive to pragmatic (connected with such areas as: health promotion, psychoprophylaxis, education, social work and psychotherapy).