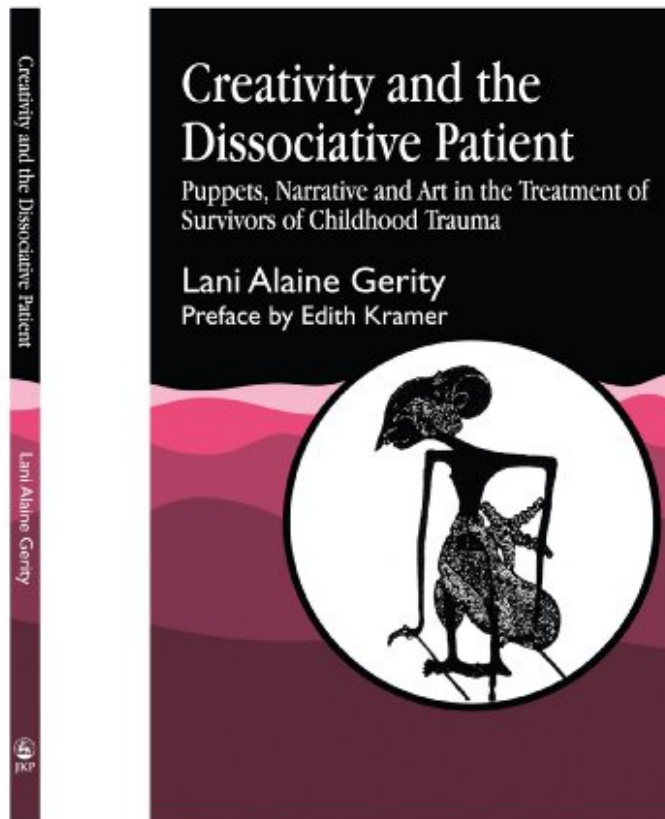


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Creativity and the Dissociative Patient: Collected Papers

Lani Alaine Gerity

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Lani Alaine Gerity : Creativity and the Dissociative Patient: Collected Papers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Creativity and the Dissociative Patient: Collected Papers:

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. A great book - read this!By Debra BeattieI highly recommend this book to anyone who has the slightest interest in multiple personality disorder, art therapy, puppetry, psychiatry, object relations theory, story telling or mental illness in general. Through Jenny's story Gerity simultaneously gives a fascinating accurate account of patient care in a mental health facility while also educating the reader about the various psychological theories that staff utilize for treatment. This book was a pleasure to read and would be enjoyable for everyone but I think it should be mandatory reading for anyone who works with the mentally ill population.

Lani Gerity shows in this book that puppet-making, incorporating both art and narrative, provides an ideal vehicle for

therapeutic work. It is particularly valuable in the treatment of dissociative patients, whose symptoms may include disturbances in body image, a dissociated sense of self, a disrupted sense of history and causality, and a feeling of alienation from the self. Lani Gerity explores the application of this in the context of object relations theory. She shows the creative process working on many levels for dissociative individuals and groups. Making puppets, three-dimensional representations of the human body, helped one patient to integrate her sense of her body image and herself. Using puppets and creating narratives about them encourages patients to build communities and to release themselves from the hold of the trauma of their pasts. Descriptions and analyses of Gerity's work with dissociative patients in the US and Canada is underpinned by a theoretical framework which encompasses theories from the arts therapies and from psychiatry.

The author makes an excellent case for the study of puppetry as a transitional object to help clients work through feelings of personal trauma. -- OTPLD Newsletter The author makes an excellent case for the study of puppetry as a transitional object to help clients work through feelings of personal trauma. (OTPLD Newsletter) About the Author Lani Gerity worked with dissociative adults for more than a decade in New York and has presented internationally and written on the dissociative patient, and on puppetry with adults. She currently practises art therapy in Ontario, Canada, assists with an art therapy programme for refugee children, serves as a visiting faculty member at New York University, and leads puppet-making workshops.