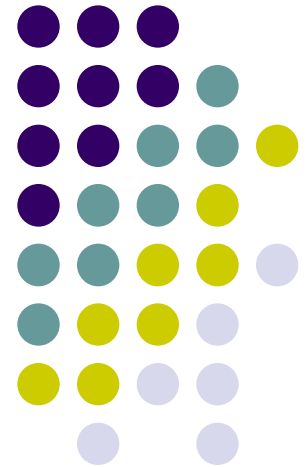


ROSENHAN (1983) ON BEING SANE IN INSANE PLACES

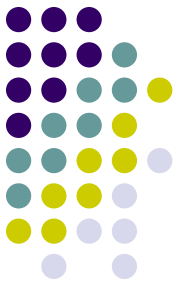
Areas to learn about:

- Defining Abnormality
- Features of Abnormality
- Classificatory systems



Introduction

- What do we mean by abnormality?
- Can you think of episodes in your own life where your behaviour may have been considered abnormal?

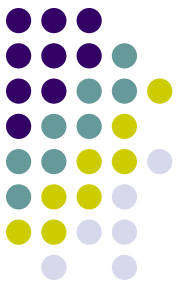


➤ Defining Abnormality



- How could you differentiate between normality and abnormality?
- Statistics? – deviation from the average?
- Non-conformity? – not conforming to what society expects.
- Social Control? – weird or unacceptable behaviour often results in labelling, but does this really mean they are mentally ill? (see story of Joe Odd written by psychiatric patient)
- Cultural Relativity – people labelled abnormal due to ethnocentrism

➤ Features of Abnormality



Rosenhan & Seligman (1989) identified 7 major features of abnormality;

1. Suffering
 2. Maladaptiveness (eg; irrational phobia)
 3. Vividness & Unconventionality (eg; dress)
 4. Unpredictability & loss of control
 5. Irrationality/incomprehensibility
 6. Observer discomfort
 7. Violation of moral & ideal standards
- Any problems with the above identifying features?
 - How useful is it to label someone?



Classificatory Systems

Two systems which recognise how groups of symptoms seem to occur together (syndromes) & can be classed as diseases.

- **International Classification of Diseases**

- (ICD) 1948**

- focussed on signs & symptoms (but problematic as some of these occur in a number of disorders)

Classificatory systems



- Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), 1952.
 - Most recent version – **DSM IV** (1994)
 - Five axes/dimensions
 - Includes influence of outside factors
 - Broader & more valid diagnosis & treatment

The Rosenhan Study

