Criticism of Rosenhan’s Study

Critics have argued Rosenhan’s study is outdated and only reflects the flawed diagnostic system of the 1960’s and 1970’s.

Alternative evidence/studies

Slater (2004) attempted to replicate Rosenhan’s study. She went to 9 psychiatric emergency rooms with one complaint of a single auditory hallucination (hearing the word ‘thud’). In most cases she was diagnosed with psychotic depression and was prescribed antipsychotics.

Link back to core study

This supports Rosenhan by showing similar issues of inaccurate diagnosis still exist in the 21st Century, where psychiatrists may still be unable to detect sanity. This adds external validity to Rosenhan’s study.