

Information, Intelligence, Instinct: Navigating Knowledge in an Ocean of AI

Brendan Kelly



Panic!

Don't Panic!

Take-home points



Steam power

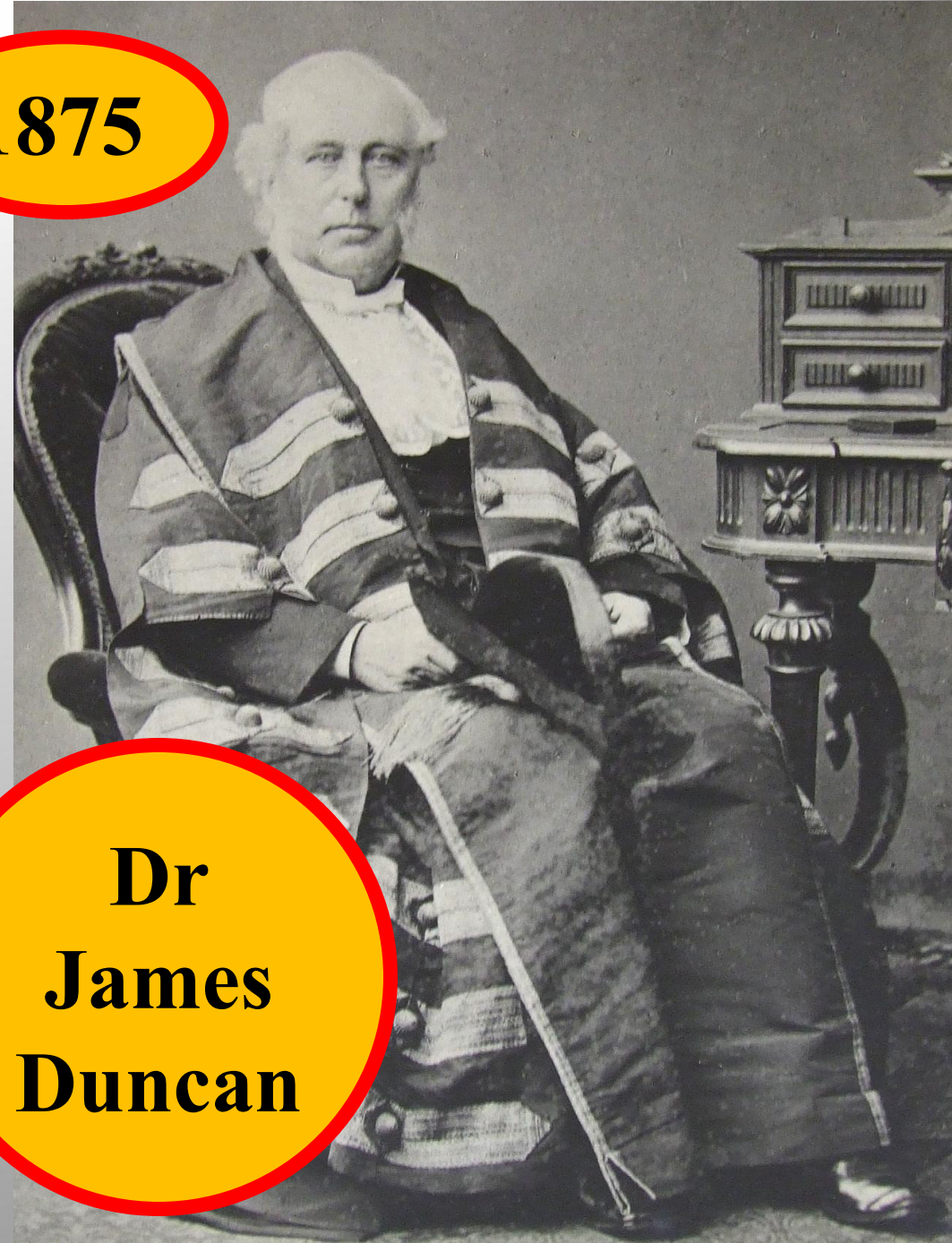
1875

‘A striking feature of the present age is that it is one of incessant mental activity. All is hurry, bustle, and excitement’

‘There is an amount of brain work going on in the present age far different in kind from, and far greater in degree than, any that was ever known before’

‘Is it necessary to prove that the greater the activity of the brain the greater must be its liability to disease?’

Dr
James
Duncan



Radio

1935

- ‘**■** appears as but the latest of cultural emergents to invade the putative privacy of the home’
- ‘Each such invasion finds the parents unprepared, frightened, resentful, and helpless’
- ‘...no locks will keep this intruder out, nor can parents shut their children away from it’
- ‘The most serious and most common complaint [...] is its frequent interference with other interests and activities’
- ‘Family conversation is the greatest sufferer, with reading and music practice close seconds. The other losses mentioned are group games, creative play, crafts, singing...’



**Sidonie
Matsner
Gruenberg**

All communication technologies

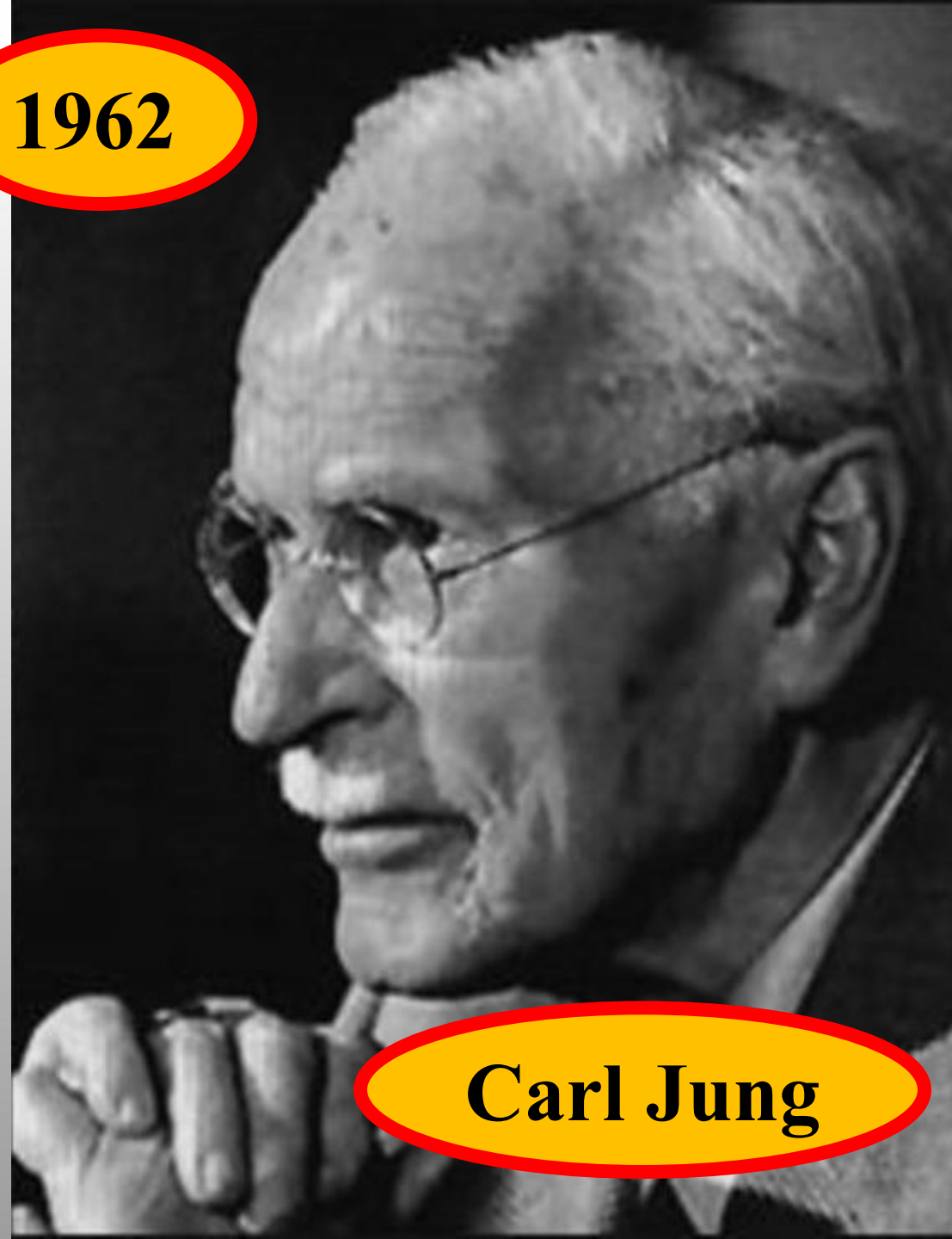
‘Reforms by advances, that is, by new methods or gadgets, are of course impressive at first, but in the long run they are dubious and in any case dearly paid for’

‘They by no means increase the contentment or happiness of people on the whole’

‘Mostly, they are deceptive sweetenings of existence, like speedier communications which unpleasantly accelerate the tempo of life and leave us with less time than ever before’

1962

Carl Jung



Dangerous Media? Panic Discourses and Dilemmas

PANIC!

The article discusses so-called media panics, i.e. emotionally charged reactions on the appearance of new media. Tracing “la longue durée” of panics over print, film and computer media and giving examples from Britain, Germany, Sweden and Denmark, the author argues that media panics are intrinsic and recurrent features of modernity. They represent a complex constellation of generational, cultural and existential power struggles through which adults seek to negotiate definitions of character forming (“Bildung”) in order to balance fundamental dilemmas of modernity.

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AI brings theoretical benefits

- ✓ **Analyse vast data sets**
- ✓ **Flag inconsistencies**
- ✓ **Support evidence review**
- ✓ **Detect earlier**
- ✓ **Triage faster**
- ✓ **See patterns we might overlook**
- ✓ **Reduce administrative burden**
- ✓ **Standardise documentation**

*These tools
can augment
professional
judgment in
truly
powerful
ways*

Tension 1: Epistemic

- Many AI models work well, but we often cannot say *why* they arrive at a particular output
- Opaque models are *difficult to defend* ethically and legally
- If we cannot explain a decision, *we cannot justify it* — to the patient, to the court, to ourselves



**This makes
information
curation
more
important**

Tension 2: Ethical

- AI is trained on historical data — and history contains *bias*
- Tools used in clinical practice may overestimate risk in certain groups or *replicate long-standing inequalities*
- Implementing a *biased prediction* can cause real harm
- Does this model promote fairness?
- Or does it amplify disparity?



**This makes
intellectual
independence
*more important***

Tension 3: Relational

- Health care professions are *relational disciplines*
- Trust, *empathy*, rapport, and narrative matter
- A person must feel heard
- No algorithm can replace the human presence required for *compassion, persuasion, or moral reasoning*



**This makes
community
more
important**

Tension 4: Legal

- **New regulatory frameworks — including the EU AI Act — emphasise human oversight**
- **Accountability cannot be delegated to a model**
- **In practice, responsibility rests with the clinician and the institution**
- **AI may help, but we remain answerable**

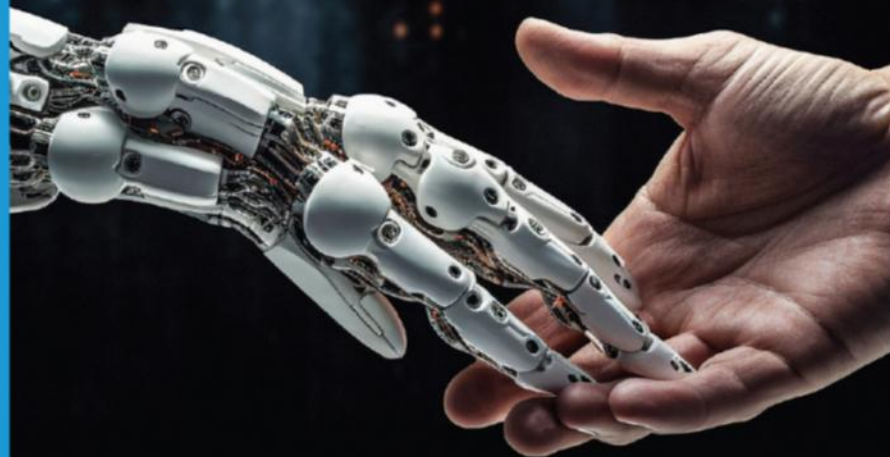


**This makes
accountability
more
important**

2024

Artificial Intelligence for Health

Supporting countries to deploy
responsible AI technologies to
accelerate equitable health for all



Cover photo: "Transition of robot hand and human hand gesture" by Freepik

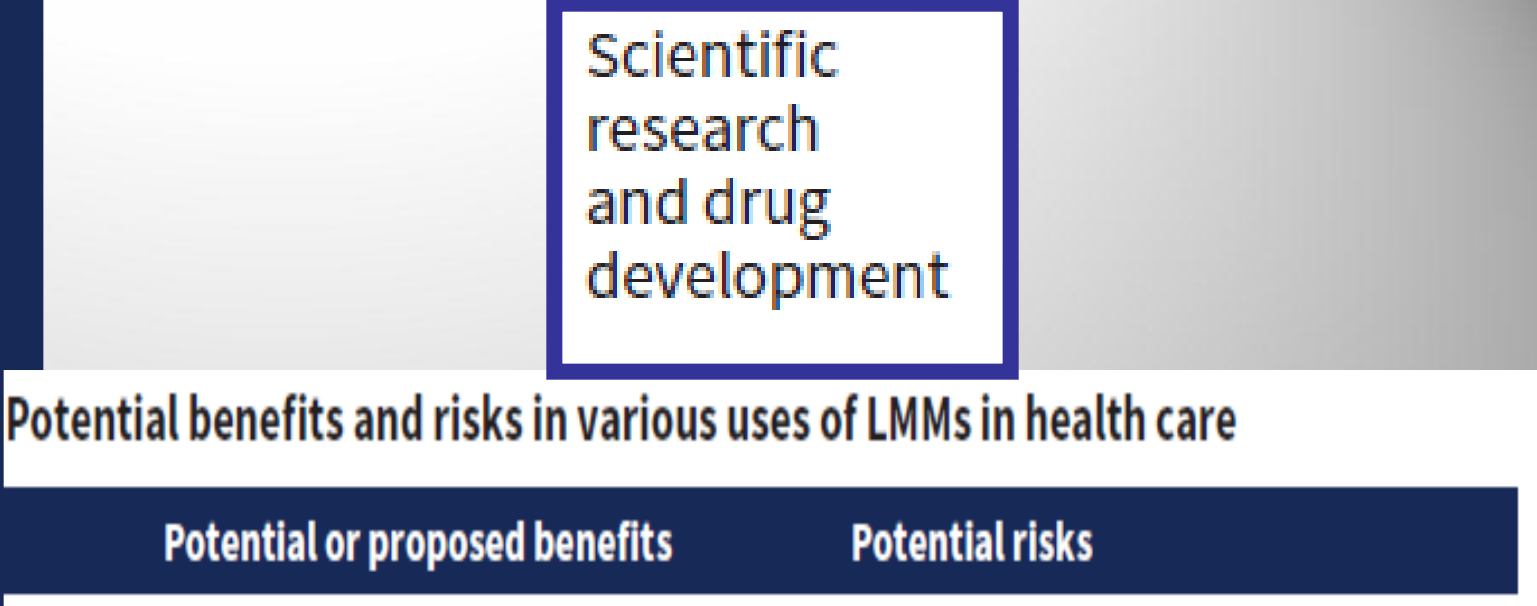
Department of Digital Health
and Innovation





Ethics and governance of artificial intelligence for health

Guidance on large multi-modal models



- Generate insights from scientific data and research
- Generate text for use in scientific articles, manuscript submission or peer-review
- Analyse and summarize data for research
- Proofreading
- De novo drug design

2024





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Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, December 11-12, 2025

H **Human** judgment is primary

AI supports but cannot replace professional reasoning

U **Understand** the model

Know its limits, training data, and biases

M **Monitor**

performance over time and across sequences

and

correlations that do not transfer to the algorithm

N **Narrative** matters

The person's story is not optional — it is central

DON'T PANIC!

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Take-home points



1875

‘...the evil complained of arises, not from mechanical contrivances in the abstract, but from the abuses connected with their working and incidental to their introduction’

‘Nor, even if it were possible for the world to return to the condition it was in a century ago, would any of us be willing to give up the advantages of our present state to secure such a result’



Aspects of Care That Remain Human

Libraries

- ✓ Information curation
- ✓ Intellectual independence
 - ✓ Community
 - ✓ Accountability

These are the foundations of medicine and law — and they remain profoundly human





Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

International Journal of Law and Psychiatry

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ijlawpsy



New technology, psychiatry, and the law: Panic, prudence, possibility

Brendan D. Kelly^{*}



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Artificial intelligence and mental capacity legislation: Opening Pandora's modem

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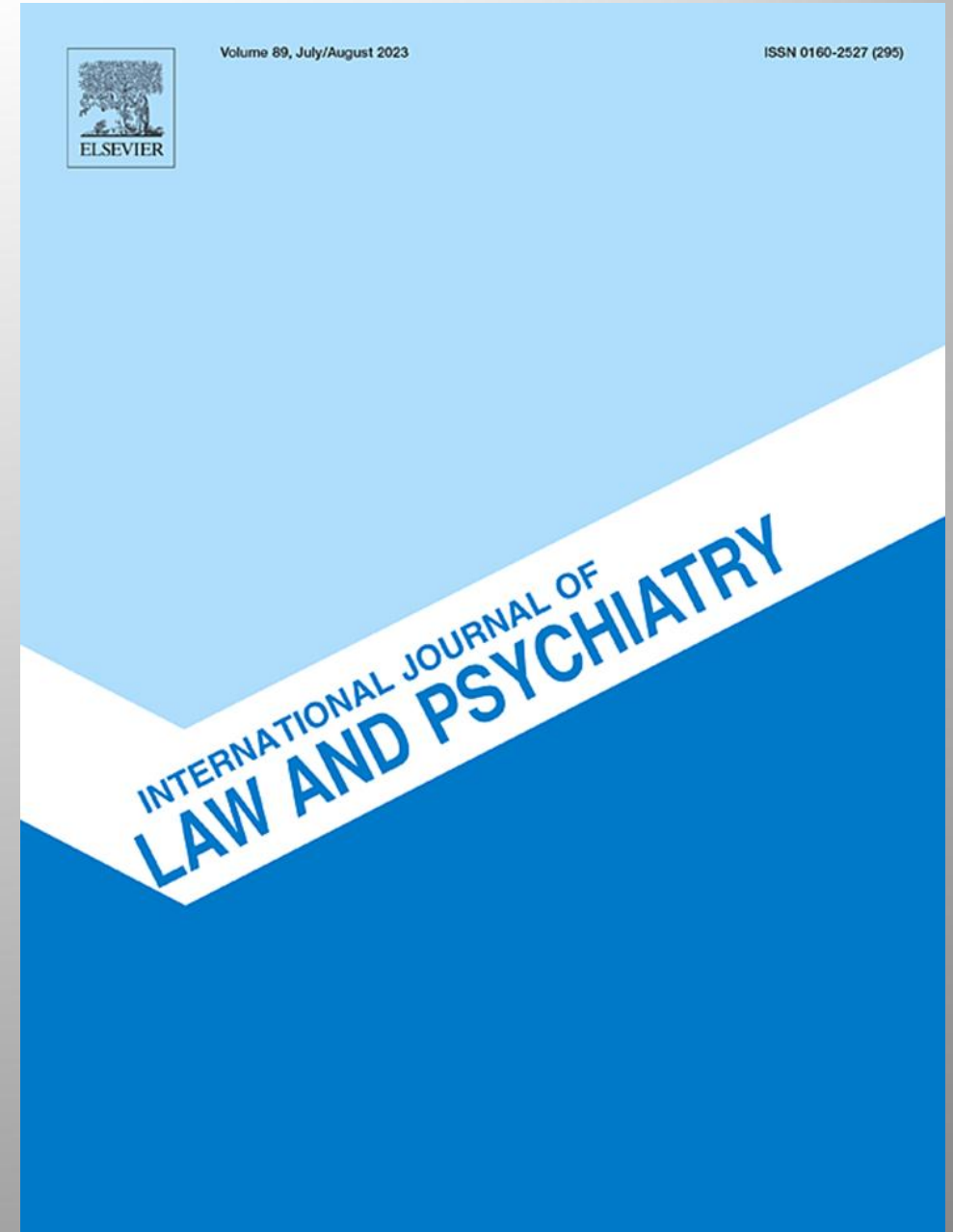
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Artificial Intelligence (AI) and academic publishing in psychiatry[☆]

Brendan D. Kelly^{*}



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Bernard Levin

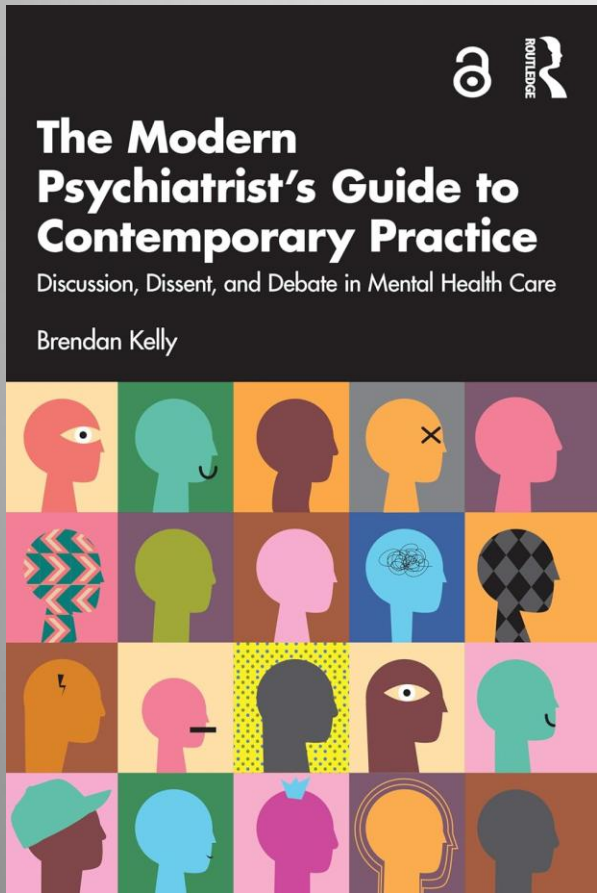
The Times

3 October 1978



‘The silicone chip will transform everything, except everything that matters, and the rest will still be up to us’

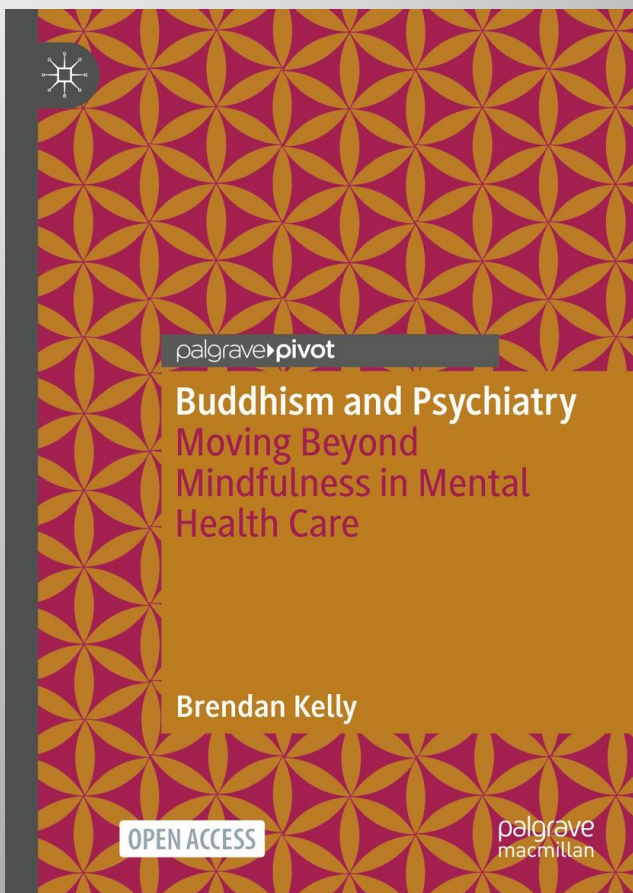
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