

# R.D. LAING

A L I F E

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*New York Times Review of Books*



A D R I A N L A I N G

# R D Laing A Biography

**Edgar Zodiag Friedenberg**



## **R D Laing A Biography:**

**R.D. Laing** Adrian C. Laing, 1994 Distributor taken from label on t p      **R.D. Laing** Adrian C. Laing, 2006      Dialogue with R.D. Laing Richard Isadore Evans, Ronald David Laing, 1981      *A divided self* John Clay, 1996      **R.D. Laing** John Clay, 1997 R D Laing was Britain's most famous psychoanalyst and a hugely contentious figure His ambition to make madness intelligible was reached through unorthodox means and despite being a gifted professional he was sneered at by the establishment In this biography John Clay traces Laing's colourful life from his childhood in Glasgow to the heights of fame in the 1960s and assesses the influence his ideas had on the future of psychiatry      Self and Others, 1998      R.D. Laing Bob Mullan, 1999 This biography pieces together elements of Laing's life re-evaluating this remarkable man's thought In particular it addresses his ambivalence towards Freud his unreconstructed Marxism his love of Buddha but his reconstructed Buddhism his adoration of Nietzsche and Sartre the only two contemporaries he believed superior to himself and the ideas he developed through his own experience of working with himself and his patients His behaviour could range from peacefulness and enlightenment to violence But he could always be trusted to be none but himself tender compassionate cruel vindictive sober or drunk muddle-headed and or profoundly perceptive and original tearful and morose joyous and contented

**History of Everyday Life in Twentieth-Century Scotland** Lynn Abrams, 2010-02-28 Over the twentieth century Scots lives changed in fast dramatic and culturally significant ways By examining their bodies homes working lives rituals beliefs and consumption this volume exposes how the very substance of everyday life was composed tracing both the intimate and the mass changes that the people endured Using novel perspectives and methods chapters range across the experiences of work art and death the way Scots conceived of themselves and their homes and the way the old Scotland of oppressive community rules broke down from mid-century as the country reinvented its everyday life and culture This volume brings together leading cultural historians of twentieth-century Scotland to study the apparently mundane activities of people's lives traversing the key spaces where daily experience is composed to expose the controversial personal and national politics that ritual and practice can generate Key features Contains an overview of the material changes experienced by Scots in their everyday lives during the course of the century Focuses on some of the key areas of change in everyday experience from the way Scots spent their Sundays to the homes in which they lived from the work they undertook to the culture they consumed and eventually the way they died Pays particular attention to identity as well as experience      *Mad to be Normal* Ronald David Laing, Bob Mullan, 1995 People believe quite different things about R D Laing and the views it is claimed he held Equally there are many opinions about his intellectual worth What is incontestable is that in the 1960s Laing wrote a number of books including *The Divided Self* *The Politics of Experience* and *The Bird of Paradise* and *Sanity Madness and the Family* that rocked the foundations of conventional psychiatry and galvanized the imagination of millions of ordinary readers For the next twenty years his books were translated into every single major language in the world and many more His collection of short poems

Knots enjoyed huge international success and was performed on television and the stage His existential approach to madness angered many people as much as it sensitized others to matters of individual liberty and the importance of the social context of illness Through his fame he was almost reinvented hence the burgeoning of the controversies that surround his work Mad to be Normal presents Laing's own words about his work and about his life It is the most complete record on Laing by Laing

**The Facts of Life** R. D. Laing, 1984-01-12 The controversial British psychiatrist describes explores and reflects on facts and feelings imaginings and memories repressions and discoveries and pains and joys of his life as child and man Portrait of the Psychiatrist as a Young Man Allan Beveridge, 2011-08-25 RD Laing remains one of the most famous psychiatrists of the last 50 years In the 1960s he enjoyed enormous popularity and received much publicity for his controversial views challenging the psychiatric orthodoxy He championed the rights of the patient and challenged the often inhumane methods of treating the mentally ill Based on a wealth of previously unexamined archives relating to his private papers and clinical notes Portrait of the Psychiatrist as a Young Man sheds new light on RD Laing and in particular his early formative years a crucial but largely overlooked period in his life The first half of the book considers Laing's intellectual journey through the world of ideas and his development as a psychiatric theorist An analysis of his notebooks and personal library reveals Laing's engagement not only with psychiatric theory but also with a wide range of other disciplines such as philosophy literature and religion This part of the book considers how this shaped Laing's writing about madness and his evolution as a clinician The second half draws on a rich and completely unexplored collection of Laing's clinical notes which detail his encounters with patients in his early years as a psychiatrist firstly in the British Army subsequently in the psychiatric hospitals of Glasgow and finally in the Tavistock Clinic in London These notes reveal what Laing was actually doing in clinical practice and how theory interacted with therapy The majority of patients who were to appear in Laing's first two books The Divided Self and The Self and Others have been identified from these records and this volume provides a fascinating account of how the published case histories compare to the original notes There is a considerable mythology surrounding Laing partly created by himself and partly by subsequent commentators By a careful examination of primary sources Allan Beveridge both a psychiatrist and an historian examines the many mythological narratives about Laing and provide a critical but not unsympathetic account of this colourful and contradictory thinker who addressed questions about the nature of madness which are still being asked today This book will be of interest to mental health workers and social historians alike as well as anybody interested in the philosophy of psychiatry **The Facts of Life** Ronald David Laing, 1976 *R. D. Laing & Anti-psychiatry* Robert Boyers, 1971 *R.D. Laing and Me* Roberta Russell, R. D. Laing, 1992-06-01 This is a unique book about power borrowing from the psychotherapeutic model it guides the reader in constructing a mutually beneficial paradigm with a carefully chosen other Advance reviews fascinating an intelligent self help book reads like a novel Daphne Merkin Contributing Editor Critic Partisan Review Admirably honest one woman's search for love in the shape of R D Laing

the diabolical lyric muse of the psychiatric profession Donald Klein M D Columbia University written from the inside a form of mutual aid the presentation style is most unusual the writing is superb Frank Riessman Ph D Editor in Chief Social Policy Two strong intellects meet in this tumultuous relationship an on edge record of wit An excellent read this clash between like spirits is a must for all Laing fans students Maurice Kenny Winner of American Book Award an occasion to be with Laing in spirit feel his presence Offers therapeutic insight understanding intention applied to an intimate partnership Claudio Naranjo M D Fulbright Scholar Guggenheim fellow *R. D. Laing* Edgar Zodiag Friedenberg, 1974 *R. D. Laing* Richard Isadore Evans, Ronald David Laing, 1976 Emma pretends that she and her dolls spend a day at school **Basaglia's International Legacy** Tom Burns, John Foot, 2020 Basaglia's International Legacy From Asylum to Community provides an overview of current thinking and the international influence of Franco Basaglia Examining his influence in Italy and beyond this book finds lessons in Basaglia's work which can be applied to contemporary international mental health services Wisdom, Madness and Folly Ronald David Laing, 1985 Herinneringen van de Britse psychiater geb 1927 aan zijn jeugd en studiejaren en de begintijd van zijn loopbaan **The British Anti-Psychiatrists** Oisín Wall, 2017-09-13 The British anti psychiatric group which formed around R D Laing David Cooper and Aaron Esterson in the 1960s burned bright but briefly and has left a long legacy This book follows their practical social and theoretical trajectory away from the structured world of institutional psychiatry and into the social chaos of the counter culture It explores the rapidly changing landscape of British psychiatry in the mid Twentieth Century and the apparently structureless organisation of the part of the counter culture that clustered around the anti psychiatrists including the informal power structures that it produced The book also problematizes this trajectory examining how the anti psychiatrists distanced themselves from institutional psychiatry while building links with some of the most important people in post war psychiatry and psychoanalysis The anti psychiatrists bridged the gap between psychiatry and the counter culture and briefly became legitimate voices in both Wall argues that their synthesis of disparate discourses was one of their strengths but also contributed to the group's collapse The British Anti Psychiatrists offers original historical expositions of the Villa 21 experiment and the Anti University Finally it proposes a new reading of anti psychiatric theory displacing Laing from his central position and looking at their work as an unfolding conversation within a social network **Family Secrets** Deborah Cohen, 2013-01-09 A Sunday Telegraph and Times Higher Education Book of the Week Deborah Cohen's Family Secrets is a gripping book about what families Victorian and modern try to hide and why In an Edinburgh town house a genteel maiden lady frets with her brother over their niece's downy upper lip Would the darkening shadow betray the girl's Eurasian heritage On a Liverpool railway platform a heartbroken mother hands over her eight year old illegitimate son for adoption She had dressed him carefully that morning in a sailor suit and cap In a town in the Cotswolds a vicar brings to his bank vault a diary sewed up in calico wrapped in parchment that chronicles his sexual longings for other men Drawing upon years of research in previously sealed records the prize winning historian Deborah

Cohen offers a sweeping and often surprising account of how shame has changed over the last two centuries. Both a story of family secrets and of how they were revealed, this book journeys from the frontier of empire where British adventurers made secrets that haunted their descendants for generations to the confessional vanguard of modern day genealogy two centuries later. It explores personal, apparently idiosyncratic decisions: hiding an adopted daughter's origins, taking a disabled son to a garden party, talking ceaselessly or not at all about a homosexual uncle. In delving into the familial dynamics of shame and guilt, *Family Secrets* investigates the part that families, so often regarded as the agents of repression, have played in the transformation of social mores from the Victorian era to the present day. Written with compassion and keen insight, this is a bold new argument about the sea changes that took place behind closed doors. Born into a family with its own fair share of secrets, Deborah Cohen was raised in Kentucky and educated at Harvard and Berkeley. She teaches at Northwestern University where she holds the Peter B. Ritzma Professorship of the Humanities. Her last book was the award-winning *Household Gods*, a history of the British love affair with the home.

## Unveiling the Magic of Words: A Report on "**R D Laing A Biography**"

In a world defined by information and interconnectivity, the enchanting power of words has acquired unparalleled significance. Their ability to kindle emotions, provoke contemplation, and ignite transformative change is actually awe-inspiring. Enter the realm of "**R D Laing A Biography**," a mesmerizing literary masterpiece penned by way of a distinguished author, guiding readers on a profound journey to unravel the secrets and potential hidden within every word. In this critique, we shall delve in to the book is central themes, examine its distinctive writing style, and assess its profound affect the souls of its readers.

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