

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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<http://www.rethinkingpsychiatry.org/robert-whitaker-returns/>

Could Psychiatric Drugs Be Fueling a Mental Illness Epidemic?

Author Robert Whitaker returns to Portland as the demand for alternatives to psychotropic drugs grows.

PORTLAND, OREGON, APRIL 2, 2012 - Robert Whitaker returns to Portland for a public presentation following two extraordinary years since the publication of his award winning book, [Anatomy of an Epidemic: Magic Bullets, Psychiatric Drugs, and the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America](#). The book investigates what is known about the biological causes of mental disorders, and asks the question, do psychiatric medications fix “chemical imbalances” in the brain, or do they, in fact, create them?



Whitaker has spent the past two years traveling North America, Europe and New Zealand having been invited by scientists, psychiatrists, health care workers, government officials, and mental health survivors and activists to support, defend and expand on the validity of his work.

"Robert Whitaker and his book continue to lay a firm, scientifically based and inspirational foundation for the transformation of the existing mental health system into a more holistic, hopeful and effective one," says Marcia Meyers, lead organizer for the April 17 event.

Meyers and other organizers for the event expect the audience at Whitaker's talk to include providers, policymakers, mental health consumers, and students.

Rethinking Psychiatry presents author Robert Whitaker

"Anatomy of an Epidemic – A Two Year Journey: Where We've Been and Where We're Going"

7:00 – 9:00pm, Tuesday, April 17, 2012

First Unitarian Church – Main Street Sanctuary

1101 SW 12th Ave, Portland, Oregon

\$5-\$20 donation requested. No one turned away for lack of funds.

ABOUT ROBERT WHITAKER

www.RobertWhitaker.com

Robert Whitaker has won numerous awards as a journalist covering medicine and science:

- 2010 Investigative Reporters & Editors book award for best investigative journalism: *Anatomy of an Epidemic*
- 1999 finalist for Pulitzer Prize in Public Service for a Boston Globe series on psychiatric research abuses
- 1998 George Polk Award for Medical Reporting
- 1998 National Association of Science Writers award for best magazine article

ABOUT RETHINKING PSYCHIATRY

Rethinking Psychiatry is a project of the Economic Justice Action Group of the First Unitarian Church.

Mission Statement: Mental health disorder labels often act as a cover for societal and situational problems. This paradigm is encouraged and exacerbated by powerful financial interests. By providing a safe, respectful and inclusive space for the sharing of the wealth of information, tools and experiences available to us all in meeting the challenges of mental, emotional and spiritual wellness, Rethinking Psychiatry is creating a more hopeful, humane and effective mental health care model.