The focus of Chapter 10 is public media, as well as attitudes and practices in the mental health professions, in the reduction of stigma and discrimination of mental illness.

This chapter teases out how shifting currents in US educational policy and politics vis-à-vis LGBTQ students conflict by employing a lens from the politics of education literature: street-level bureaucrats. Regardless of the intent of a policy’s authors, how street-level bureaucrats (career civil servants like public educators) define a policy through their implementation becomes the actual meaning of the policy. Given the shifting political winds regarding LGBTQ identity and educational policy, teasing out whose understandings of a given policy are actually implemented is critical for the well-being of LGBT students attending US public schools. Educators, as street-level bureaucrats, have the potential to find spaces within these broader political and policy changes to better serve as supports for LGBT students. Finally, in the United States and other locales, economic decline can amplify political discontent, including conflicts over the course and scope of educational policies.

Food and Addiction: A Comprehensive Handbook

Food and Addiction: A Comprehensive Handbook brings scientific order to the issue of food and addiction, spanning multiple disciplines to create the foundation for what is a
rapidly advancing field and to highlight needed advances in science and public policy. It assembles leading scientists and policy makers from fields such as nutrition, addiction, psychology, epidemiology, and public health to explore and analyze the scientific evidence for the addictive properties of food. It provides complete and comprehensive coverage of all subjects pertinent to food and addiction, from basic background information on topics such as food intake, metabolism, and environmental risk factors for obesity, to diagnostic criteria for food addiction, the evolutionary and developmental bases of eating addictions, and behavioral and pharmacologic interventions, to the clinical, public health, and legal and policy implications of recognizing the validity of food addiction. Each chapter reviews the available science and notes needed scientific advances in the field.

Public Attitudes about Addiction as a Cause of Obesity
Colleen L. Barry

This chapter examines public attitudes about food addiction as a cause of obesity. It is vital to understand beliefs about this issue since public opinion can greatly affect policymaker views about the appropriateness and feasibility of enacting public policies aimed at solving the problem of obesity. Research suggests that individuals who attributed obesity primarily to bad personal choices were significantly less likely to support government obesity prevention policies than those who recognized factors external to the individual (e.g., societal, economic) as important contributors.

The Mark of Shame
Stigma of Mental Illness and an Agenda for Change
Stephen P. Hinshaw

Mental illness tops the list of stigmatized conditions in current society, generating the kinds of stereotypes, fear, and rejection that are reminiscent of longstanding attitudes toward leprosy. Mental disorders threaten stability and order, and media coverage exacerbates this situation by equating mental illness with violence. As a result, stigma is rampant, spurring family silence, discriminatory laws, and social isolation. The pain of mental illness is searing enough, but adding the layer of stigma affects personal well-being, economic productivity, and public health, fueling a vicious cycle of lowered expectations, deep shame, and hopelessness. This title provides practical strategies for overcoming this serious problem, including enlightened social policies that encourage, rather than discourage, contact with those afflicted, media coverage emphasizing their underlying humanity, family education, and responsive treatment.
Chapter 6 shifts focus to broader forms of evidence for stigmatization, through indicators such as linguistic practices, accounts in public media, attitudes displayed by the mental health profession, discriminatory policies, and views found in personal and family narratives. These types of data are highly influential—in fact, the evidence from these less overtly scientific sources may be even more compelling than the results of formal scientific studies.

This title presents an overview of gerontology appropriate for beginning, graduate and advanced undergraduate students. The text includes seminal chapters on theory, methodology, physiological processes, health, culture, dying and bereavement, cognitive processes and intellectual abilities, personality, assessment, clinical issues and competency, caregiving, and public policy issues. The chapters have been authored by major researchers and practitioners in the field. Each chapter includes review questions and a list of additional reference sources.

Chapter 64 considers lessons that can be learned from drug policy, including the epidemic nature of the public health threat, defining the problem and seeking solutions, the power and the limits of the law, the unique roles of community fellowships (such as Narcotics Anonymous), and brain management.