

The Vicissitudes of the Concepts of Normal and Pathological: Canguilhem Revisited

Abstract

This article may be defined as a reflection of the literature centered in Canguilhem's book "The Normal and the Pathological". The author's classic work is a fundamental reference for a reflection on the parameters that define health and illness. Taking this review as a starting point, we intend to present the different conceptions of health and illness along history, in order to defend that these conceptions are not determined solely by scientific factors. We believe that there are underlying political, historic, religious, social and economic factors in the history of these conceptions. We hope that this historic reflection offers conditions for further elaboration on the vicissitudes of the concepts of normal and pathological in the field of Psychology.

Keywords: Normal; pathological; health; Psychology; Canguilhem.