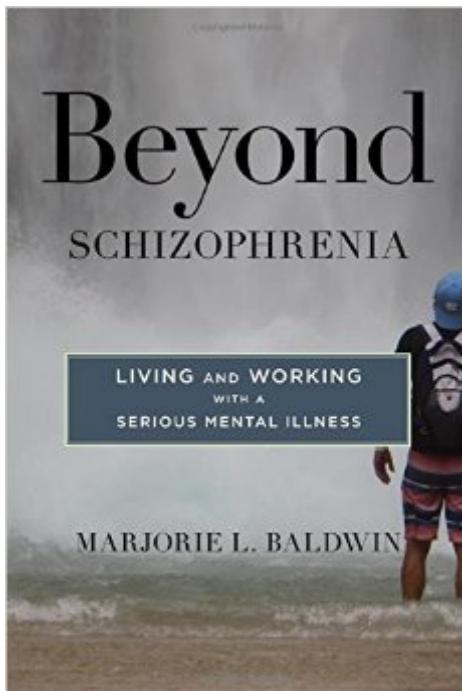


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# Beyond Schizophrenia: Living And Working With A Serious Mental Illness



## **Synopsis**

The experience of living and working with schizophrenia is often fraught with challenges and setbacks. This book is a comprehensive attempt to explain why, in spite of near-miraculous advances in medication and treatment, persons with mental illness fare worse than almost any other disadvantaged group in the labor market. As a researcher of economics and disability and the mother of a son with schizophrenia, the author speaks from both professional and personal experience. First, she looks at societal factors that affect employment outcomes for persons with schizophrenia (or other serious mental illness), including stigma and discrimination, investments in human capital, the quality of mental health services, and the support of family and friends. Then she examines workplace factors that affect employment outcomes, including employer mandates in the Americans with Disabilities Act, the decision to disclose a diagnosis of mental illness at work, the interaction between job demands and functional limitations, and job accommodations for persons with a serious mental illness. Giving weight to both perspectives, the final chapter outlines a set of policy recommendations designed to improve employment outcomes for this population.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Excellent description of living with a loved one with schizophrenia from two perspectives: 1) A mother; and 2) A health economist. This combination makes it more than a simple (yet valid) story of how a family comes together to overcome this challenge because it also incorporates the impact of the disease on the health system. A must read for those interested in moving the mental health

system forward.

Few books combine serious academic thinking with intimate personal feelings. This one does and Marjorie Baldwin writes well. She covers a large number of issues involved with serious mental illness (SMI) in general and schizophrenia in particular and tells a detailed personal story about her son and herself. It is a unique and valuable book. The author is an academic, the bibliography is a very academic one with almost no trade books. I create and maintain educational websites, Midwest Independent Research. I have one on mental health, [mwir-mentalhealth.blogspot.com](http://mwir-mentalhealth.blogspot.com).

Although much of this book reads like a research paper, I found the personal experiences of the author well written and very compelling. I was happy that there are success stories now when managing mental illness. Things have improved since my step-son ended his life at age 33. The step-by-step action plan for securing gainful employment and a sense of self-worth are right-on. I appreciated the glowing recommendation for Phoenix Dream Center, an organization that I'll place on my donation list. Anyone dealing with schizophrenia in the family would find a lot to learn and ponder in this book.

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