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An understanding of addiction theory is vital to understanding addiction itself. Theory of Addiction takes theory development from a simple `rational addiction model', adding elements such as compulsion, self-control and habit, to explain the `big observations' in the field. As well as explaining and evaluating the arguments of each of the prevailing schools of thought, the book develops a new, synthetic theory of addiction that brings together the diverse elements of current models.

Designed to enable students, practitioners and researchers to establish a starting point in the labyrinthine world of addiction theory, Theory of Addiction supports abstract thinking with concrete and realistic scenarios, underlining the centrality of theoretical understanding to working with addiction.

Presents a digest of major existing theories in one volume

Develops a new synthetic theory of addiction

Recognises the diversity of the experience of addiction

Discusses factors at the level of both the individual and populations

Provides key recommendations for the development of effective interventions

Teléfonos: 55 44 73 40 y 55 44 72 91