

The Travesty of the Tavistock: What does that say about the rest of us?

Your long magazine feature *The Kids' Gender Clinic that Became a Conveyor Belt* (13/2/23) thoroughly and convincingly describes how a previously august and careful institution somehow became in thrall to a cadre of blind, mission-dominated zealotry that, shockingly, jettisoned its clinical and human sense to meet a kind of customer demand.

What this good journalism did not address is why and how this happened. Such distortion and corruption of healthcare is significant far beyond the Tavistock Clinic. It is a grotesque fruit from our many perverse influences in healthcare and society: our marketised healthcare that can 'make money' for autarkic trusts; the specious medicalisation of our ultimately only-human problems; our consumerism provoking hungers and dissatisfaction; a spurious faith that technology can and should reverse or abolish all our hauntings, pains and discontents; an increasingly screen-bound existence where metaverses and avatars can so readily and vividly conjure non-reality; a growth-economy that needs to stimulate dissatisfaction with what is, what we have and what we are; a world riddled with fake news and 'alternative realities'...

Human sexuality is eternally chimeric, troubled and ambiguous; likewise youth may be volatile, unstable and impatient. What is recent is the widespread delusion that experts can and should fix so much and so quickly.