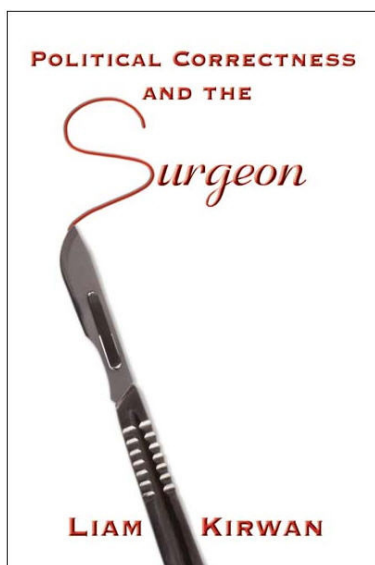




Political Correctness and the Surgeon

Liam Kirwan. Published by [AuthorHouse](#) (UK), 2008. ISBN 9781434346223 (paperback). Contains 300 pages. Price £7.30 + shipping

Liam Kirwan was a professor of surgery from Cork, Ireland who has gone into print.



His book draws on many years of hospital practice. I believe it should be required educational reading for those embarking on a career in secondary healthcare, and recommended as entertainment for those in that area of practice who are approaching retirement. It will also reassure those in the latter group that they are not alone and that the managerial madness they have witnessed is an experience they share with colleagues in some other overseas healthcare systems.

In essence, Kirwan's message is that the spirit of managerialism has not been exorcised. It still haunts and perverts hospital and related systems elsewhere in the developed world. Furthermore, it uses political correctness as an important tool to retain its pervasive power over unwitting clinicians.

His message is conveyed as a long and extensive monologue from himself to a mysterious senior management figure called Patricia (*Hospital Correctitude Commissar*).

In this monologue, the areas of managerial madness are described and explored in detail. All the individuals, offices, processes, and procedures are given descriptively comical names (*The Maladroit Fellow* is a surgeon who prefers *Pseudowork* i.e. attending management meetings. *The Wizards of the Black Hole* preside over the smoke-and-mirrors of contemporary healthcare accounting. *The Time Police* from *Fortress Brussels* exercise totalitarian powers over *allowed* hours of work).

Indeed, the reader is left in no doubt that, in the latter part of his career, the good professor found himself in an absurd Alice in Wonderland environment where the inmates had taken charge of the asylum.

The prose is richly Celtic, and some of the sentences are longer than Judge Jeffreys', but the whole work is extremely entertaining for its droll language and dark insightfulness. It would make good bedtime reading and an agreeable present for any hospital colleague with a sense of humour.

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