

### Truth and Philosophical Practice

DAVID M. WOLF

APPA CERTIFIED COUNSELOR, HONESDALE, PA

#### Abstract

Truth is a troubled concept in the public consciousness after a century of modern and postmodern controversies. Cognitive relativism has been joined by postmodernism in which a new skepticism attends all systems of belief and gives rise to social harms. Philosophic practitioners can mitigate or help alleviate these conditions and problems if they develop the distinction between moral truth and factual truth and, along the way, reassert the primacy of reason against the postmodernist confusions and recent tendencies in society to conceal what's real from entire populations. Five specific tasks proposed for philosophic practitioners can serve these purposes.

**Keywords:** *postmodernism, truthfulness, moral truth, cognitive relativism*

**Midwifery: The Paradoxical Nature of Contemporary and Ancient Therapy**

DOUGLAS DEAN

LICENSED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST AND PSYCHOTHERAPIST, CHINO HILLS, CA

**Abstract**

Contemporary psychotherapeutic practice not only reflects the diversity of ancient Greek thought but also shares many of the same basic philosophical questions and approaches with little awareness of their origins. A brief review of literature will reveal how ancient philosophers from Socrates onward viewed the primary function of their philosophies as therapeutic. Focus of this paper will be on Socrates' midwifery as a paradigmatic case for therapeutic discourse. Midwifery will be analyzed in terms of meta-complementary communication patterns that are subject to paradox as described by Bertrand Russell's Theory of Types and applied to psychotherapy by Gregory Bateson and Jay Haley. Carl Rogers' client-centered approach, the most straightforward contemporary form of psychotherapeutic midwifery, will be used as a comparison to Socratic midwifery. Generous use of quoted material is used in an effort to offer the therapist's view in their own words.

**Keywords:** *Socrates, midwifery, ancient psychotherapy, paradoxical dialogue, Socratic Method, communication theory*

**The Philosophy of the Self  
From the Pathologos to the Logos to Enlightenment Experiences**

PIERRE GRIMES  
NOETIC SOCIETY, COSTA MESA, CA

**Abstract**

The movement from the pathologos to the logos and to enlightenment experiences proceeds along a well-defined route composed of a series of probing questions that uncover unsuspected false beliefs about the Self, and create the conditions for profound experiences akin to enlightenment experiences. Since these questions follow the model of Philosophical Midwifery it can be called a dialectic. The questions are adapted to meet the needs of the individual in uncovering, understanding and eliminating personal problems. It fulfills the demands of the dialectic in being a method for providing definitions, demonstrations, divisions, and analysis in the quest for understanding the Self.

**Keywords:** *Self, Philosophical Midwifery, the logos, dialectic, personal problems, and enlightenment*

**From Matrimonial Institution to Maintaining a Stable and Happy Marriage**

ZHIYUAN WANG

GUANGXI NORMAL UNIVERSITY FOR NATIONALITIES, CHINA

**Abstract**

Miller and Kanazawa held that monogamy or polygamy in matrimonial institutions are results of evolutionary psychology. It is not difficult to find that matrimonial institutions are outcomes of human rational choice. From point of view of decision making, adoption of matrimonial institutions derive from human calculation of related benefits, whether benefits are measured qualitatively or quantitatively. It is necessarily true that different people in different societies adopt different measures of quality, according to what is best for them where calculation is concerned. There is no doubt that marriage means establishing a special kind of unit for the people concerned, and there are two conditions that should be satisfied when establishing a family. If the two conditions are satisfied, a family can be built which is best for the agents under the condition of matrimonial institution; thus a stable and happy marriage can be maintained if the agents maintain their better selves.

**Keywords:** *monogamy; polygamy; mechanism of matrimonial institution; game analysis; game theory*