

A Philosophical Counseling Approach to Moral Distress

NANCY J. MATCHETT

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

Abstract

This paper completes an argument that the problem of moral distress offers philosophical counselors an opportunity to do work that is both socially useful and philosophically interesting in its own right. A previous *Philosophical Practice* article answered the question, *What's Philosophical About Moral Distress?* by conceptualizing it as a phenomenon that arises within a moral worldview (Matchett 2018). The present paper investigates ways in which a philosophical counseling response to moral distress might differ from the strategies deployed by the nursing profession to date. Though they are often quite subtle, the presence of some differences opens the possibility that philosophical counseling might be more effective than those strategies; in addition to helping individual nurses feel better, this could strengthen the nursing profession's efforts to mitigate nursing shortages and enhance quality of patient care. Though case studies are necessary to support these claims, there are reasons to think they are warranted.

Keywords: *moral distress, moral agency, nursing, client counseling, worldviews, emotions, ethics education, counterstories.*

Philosophical Counseling: Premises and Recognition of Profession in Romania

VASILE HAȚEGAN, PHD

ASSOCIATE LECTURER, WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMISOARA, ROMANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND SCIENCES OF COMMUNICATION

Abstract

Starting from the appearance of philosophical counseling in Europe and then in other countries in the world, as a form of philosophy for the benefit of the people, the paper is showing the concerns in Romania in the field of the implementation of the concept of philosophical counseling. In this article we study the Romanian premises that generated the first preoccupations for philosophical practice, starting with renowned philosophers such as Constantin Noica and Emil Cioran, continuing with the contemporary premises of new philosophical practices and finally presenting how the procedures for regulating the new profession were started in Romania. From studying the national regulatory requirements of the profession, we identified the model of mediation, which can be successfully followed in the process of recognizing the philosophical counseling profession, the two occupations having many similarities. This paper is an actual concern for the recognition and regulation of the new profession in Romania, that of philosophical counseling.

Keywords: *philosophical practice, philosophical counseling, profession, mediation*

Lead a Life Based on Daoism?

ZHIYUAN WANG AND YULING REN
GUANGXI NORMAL UNIVERSITY FOR NATIONALITIES, CHINA

Abstract

In common sense, Dao is a way of life. The paper, from this sense, discusses the basic ideas of Daoism, especially those of Yan Zhu, Lao Tzu, and Chuang Tzu. The main aim of Daoism is to purify oneself, which leads naturally to preserving life and valuing self. Though Daoism has different interpretations, we can find a common theme from Yan Zhu, Lao Tzu, and Chuang Tzu: all three of them focus on preserving life, and claiming that uselessness is a, or the, only concrete way toward it. Chuang Tzu even held the idea of the uniformity of all things. However, uselessness could lead to contrary acts, or to dilemmas which may be very difficult for a person to avoid or resolve, especially in modern times. Chuang Tzu's higher point of view may represent enlightenment, which is not a concrete way.

Keywords: *Daoism, Yang Zhu, Lao Tzu, Chuang Tzu, way of living; better life*

**Philosophical Practice as Didactical Framework for Conferences
A Case Study about the 8th Nordic Conference for Philosophical Practice**

MICHAEL NOAH WEISS
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH-EASTERN NORWAY

Abstract

In this article a didactical framework for conferences is presented, which is based on methodological key-concepts of philosophical practice. This framework is outlined in a more manual-like style and illustrated in terms of a short case study regarding the proceedings of the 8th Nordic Conference for Philosophical Practice, which took place in April 2018 in Oslo, Norway. The case is based on the personal experience of the author, as well as on empirical data gathered in the form of a qualitative questionnaire, that was filled out at the end of the conference by the participants. The article concludes with a discussion about the potentials of philosophical practice beyond the scope of counseling and mere group dialogues.

Keywords: *pedagogical philosophical practice, conference format, experiential learning, dialogue didactics, nordic conference, adult education*