

Hermeneutics and Clinical Philosophy

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Abstract

In the constant and ongoing search of a scientific reliability, Hermeneutics validates a real modification of the human questioning, and makes the relay between the faculty of reasoning and the action. It inaugurates new perspectives by creating the link between the passivity of theory and the activity of practice. The most important perspective is Clinical Philosophy, considering Hermeneutics as a process of therapeutic work and a practical form of philosophizing. Hermeneutics is qualified as a critical and dialectical medium in order to elucidate the questioning of being, proving that everyone is a continuous project in life.

Keywords: *clinical philosophy, hermeneutics, interpretation, thought, practical, comprehension, recognition, will, power, action*

Philosophical Midwifery and the Platonic Tradition

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Abstract

Each of the approaches to philosophical counseling has its own goals, methods, and practice, as does Philosophical Midwifery (PMW), but it needs to be asked which philosophical tradition is PMW a member of, if any? Or, should PMW stand alone and apart from both philosophy and psychology? Since Philosophical Midwifery assumes that human conflicts can be traced to the acceptance of a false belief of the Self, which is called a pathologos in PMW, it presupposes the idea of Self as the fundamental idea of Platonic-Homeric thought. The works of Proclus' *Platonic Theology* and Plato's *Republic* are used for this analysis because the idea of Self is of primary and essential to their thought. The essential propositions of Proclus' *Elements of Theology* will be shown to have similar dynamics to the basic thought found in PMW. The key question found in the study of arithmetic in the training of the philosopher-king in Plato's *Republic* will also be cited, among others, as support for the idea of the Self.

Keywords: *philosophical midwifery, Plato, Proclus, self, logos, pathologos*

**The Edifying Turn
Is Philosophical Practice in Need of a New Paradigm?**

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Abstract

This article represents a philosophical inquiry on the question whether philosophical practice is in need of a new paradigm. In the course of this inquiry key-aspects of philosophical practice are first identified. In a second step, these key-aspects are then—by means of the epistemological method of strangification—reframed into the context of Ancient philosophy. The outcome of this inquiry will show how philosophical practice can be thought and understood as an edifying, pedagogical practice.

Keywords: *pedagogical philosophical practice, education, pedagogy, wisdom, paideia, phronesis.*

A Moral Argument Against *Lying on the Couch*

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Abstract

Is the writing of *Lying on the Couch*, a novel by influential existential psychiatrist, Irvin Yalom, an immoral act? Published in 1996, and touted on the book jacket as being the funniest and most sensitive book ever written about psychoanalysis, it contains a plotline that involves a psychiatrist, “Seymour Trotter.” Seymour justifies, with humor, his sexual relationship with his client, “Belle Fellini,” a victim and survivor of childhood sexual abuse, even claiming it was part of her healing process. I argue that this novel is no laughing matter, and that its writing constitutes an immoral act for three reasons. First, it dehumanizes women by presenting them in a caricatured and reductionistic way. Secondly, its negative depiction of psychologists and psychiatrists could have the harmful effect of steering women away from help offered by respected professionals whom it might be prudent for them to see. Finally, it misleadingly erodes trust in the scientific credibility of the professions of psychology and psychiatry.

Keywords: *dehumanization, ethics of representation, immoral, psychiatry, psychology, psychotherapy, sexual boundary violations*