

**Kierkegaard, Cancer and Narrative:
The Concrete Drama of Sophia's Self-Becoming**

JEANETTE BRESSON LADEGAARD KNOX
UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

Abstract

Illness narratives in great literature provide nuanced and weighty perspectives on the vulnerability and uncertainty of existence and the task of self-becoming. They invite conversation and afterthought. Though differently, philosophy does the same. Building on the Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, this article reflects on one lived story experienced by a participant in one of my Socratic dialogue groups with cancer survivors. The story demonstrates how a life-threatening diagnosis can become an occasion for an awakening and an opportunity for the restoration of the self after cancer tore it asunder. The article shows how Kierkegaard's thoughts on selfhood and despair can appraise and enlighten the concrete drama of a living person's illness narrative. In doing so it crystallizes the moral exigency and existential profundity that lie within ordinary lived life.

Keywords: *narrative, self-becoming, selfhood, dialogue, cancer, Kierkegaard*

The Phenomenological Interview: Key Considerations

JOHN W. MURPHY
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

Abstract

Qualitative work in health care and other fields is becoming associated increasingly with phenomenology. Most of the discussions of this philosophy are exceedingly abstract and short on application. The focus of this article is how this philosophy can be put into practice when undertaking interviews. The general idea is that a phenomenological interview allows for clients to be engaged, their interpretative worlds entered, and appropriated interventions to be planned and implemented.

Keywords: *phenomenology, lifeworld, dialogue, local stock of knowledge, world entry, interpretive competence, member check, employment*

**The Role of Virtue in the Theories of Moral Restoration
and Psychological Well-Being of A. MacIntyre and M. Seligman**

LUCIO M. NONTOL
SETON HALL UNIVERSITY, NJ

Abstract

The main purpose of this research is to develop the ideas of moral restoration and psychological well-being in Alasdair MacIntyre and Martin Seligman. Both categories are the result of various analyzes, debates, and publications made by these authors over many years. Both categories agree that to carry out this proposal the practice of virtue is essential. At the same time, they differ in their approach and in their development. However, the dialogue between the two alternatives is fruitful, since they promote insights that with further development could provide holistic psychological therapy and become complementary to those already initiated in positive psychology and philosophical counseling.

Keywords: *moral restoration, psychological well-being, virtue, therapy, psychobiography*

The Discontinuity of Philosophical Practice

GIANCARLO MARINELLI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SCUOLA UMBRA COUNSELING FILOSOFICO (SUCF), ROME, ITALY

Abstract

This article clarifies where philosophical practice breaks with more established and evident tendencies of modern academic Western philosophy. It proposes a way to rediscover the central contradiction, as well as connection, between thought and feelings. Only philosophical practice grounds philosophy and thought in general on experience, sensations, and feelings. This union is essentially characterized by discontinuity. Discontinuity means that in an antinomic, aporetic way, a part of a whole seems at the same time also itself a whole of equal importance. So, we can understand that what Lou Marinoff terms the “flowering of oneself” is this plurality of ideas in a conciliated and/or conflicted way of being.

Keywords: *philosophical practice, experience, sensation, contradiction, opposites, plurality of ideas, ideas, discontinuity, liberation, unity*