

Review of: "Jan Smuts' Theory of Holism as an Uplifting Philosophy for Philosophical Counseling"

Sergey Borisov

Potential competing interests: The author(s) declared that no potential competing interests exist.

The authors of the article, entitled Jan Smuts' *Theory of Holism as an Uplifting Philosophy for Philosophical Counseling* give a detailed description of the life path of Jan Smut and the main term of his philosophy "Holism". The authors note that Smuts' holistic thesis and holism more broadly have played, and continue to play, a crucial theoretical role in some threads of Anglo-American psychology (for example, Gestalt Psychology and Gestalt Therapy, psychology of personality etc). The authors showed how Smut used the word "Holism" in a metaphysical sense (as an ontological principle/process inherent in nature), while the authors note that although Holism is an "attempt at a synthesis" it is not to be understood as a system of philosophy. For most of the article, the authors focus on four essential foundational concepts in understanding Smuts' Holism (the whole and its parts are a synthesis which reciprocally influence and determine one another; the idea of fields as central to understanding his Holism; the term "intro-action": "mind does not so much act on body as penetrate it, and thus act through or inside it"; rejection of both Materialism and Idealism).

However, the question remains: how it can be useful for philosophical practitioners? How exactly can the ideas described in the article be implemented in philosophical counseling? For what concepts, methods, practices of philosophical counseling can these ideas be recommended? The authors briefly mention only one method of philosophical counseling (logic-based therapy), but the practice of philosophical counseling is not exhausted by this.

Given these questions, I recommend that the authors either leave them unanswered, but then you need to change the title of the article, or answer them so as not to be unfounded and divorced from the practice of philosophical counseling.