

Review of: "Dreamscapes of Belonging"

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This article is a very interesting reflexive and meditative rumination on historical events and existential journeys that pertain to the collective memory of a generation of Europeans, namely the Generation X, grown from being students while the dreams of peace were possible to becoming seniors while war rages in Europe and the Middle East, again. The article would have a number of interesting directions to go in terms of a theoretical framework: Jungian art-based therapy itself, the function and functioning of dreaming, the experience of being a nomad, therefore an immigrant (which bears a long tradition since Benjamin and the birth of the New School in New York). Then, a methodological structure might enable a due understanding and perhaps even a repeatable interpretation of the personal trajectory of the author. After all, a LinkedIn meme recently stated that all research is autobiographical, therefore the personal background of the writer might have offered the best backbone to the presentation of theory and the operationalization of methodologies through the implementation of tools or procedures.

Unfortunately, the above possibility is not really captured in the published draft, which remains episodic in describing a few experiences by the author, from said therapeutic practice to dreams and memories of Yugoslavia, with a couple of enjoyable, yet theoretically ineffective referenced quotes. At the end of the article, the reader does not know anything of Jungian art therapy, she has no coherent presentation of how such practice is operationalized, and the historical references remain generic, however heartfelt, sketches with episodic quality. It is a pity, because the opportunity is very promising, but the end result pertains more to autofiction than to a scientific or peer-reviewed journal, however constructively open to alternative interpretations of what academic standards are like Qeios is. The author might want to repurpose her writing into a novel or a collection of short stories, or to restart the writing process from the creation of a due theoretical framework to base a precise research question. Whatever her choice, I will gladly read a new version, as long as it is aligned to a canon, either narrative literature or academic publishing.