

Review of: "Theory of infrastructure: Impact of egoism manifestation by a therapist towards a patient in psychotherapy"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper raises the topic of therapists' mental health and their psychological needs, which indeed is an important field of theory and empirical research. There is made an attempt to develop a model for assessing this, which is described as "egoism satisfaction infrastructure". This might be a fruitful path to follow, but unfortunately I find several shortcomings in the paper as it is at the present.

This reviewer find the issue of the paper a bit too unclear, which makes it difficult to assess as a whole. I recommend that the author clarifies the aim of this work in a clearer way. Matter that should be addressed early in a paper like this in explicit terms is 1) what is actually the issue(s)? and 2) why is it important?

Several concepts are used in the introduction that this reviewer believes needs to be clarified, especially the "egoism satisfaction infrastructure".

The claim made in the first line of the introduction is "Two situations make it difficult for therapists to meet their patient's needs, and each involves a different insufficient infrastructure scenario:

1. The patient had a frustrating day prior to their therapy session.
2. The therapist has been through too many harsh experiences in life."

This is an empirical statement and should most certainly be confirmed by referring to empirical studies. Furthermore, it does not seem very likely to be possible to confirm, indeed not if it should be taken literally that these are the (only?) difficulties that can challenge the treatment.

I would recommend a more generic approach that describes factors that is of importance for therapy outcome, that involves the client and his/her situation, the therapist and his/her background, the contextual, organizational and societal frame of the therapy. Than, the paper can focus on what seems to be the ambition: the psychological needs of the therapist.

In the introduction it is claimed that "(...) because therapists (as human beings) are unlikely to criticize themselves publicly, not enough is known or addressed in empirical literature regarding the ethical and practical implications of their manifestations of egoism directed toward the patient, even in explorations of the concept of the wounded healer (Jung,

1951).” This is a claim of empirical nature, and to underpin this the author needs to refer to more recent empirical literature, e.g. relevant literature review papers. There are studies and reviews that should be of interest in this field, such as Macran & Shapiro (2011): The role of personal therapy for therapists: A review.

There are several statements in the paper that indeed needs to be supported by empirical studies – and perhaps many of these statements are not actually relevant. One example of such a statement is on page 7: “Inverse psychological projection has unfortunately become a common phenomenon in the general population today, evident in everyday situations and scenarios and social media interactions”.

My impression is that the author tries to develop a construct that is denoted “egoism satisfaction infrastructure”, and this seems to be based on Freudian/ psychodynamic motivational psychology and/ or on hedonistic philosophy. This is a perfectly legitimate endeavor. I suggest that a revision of the paper should be made where 1) the issue is made as clear as possible, in clear-cut terms. 2) Than in the introduction sections the theoretical and empirical preconditions for the following argument should be written, and a thorough literature search seems to be necessary for this purpose.

I would suggest a different structure of the paper. Rather than forcing this theoretical discussion into a IMRaD format, a more theory-oriented structure will allow the writer to develop the ideas. An example of an article of this kind is Julian Hofmann, Pablo Hubacher Haerle & Anke Maatz (2023) What’s the Linguistic Meaning of Delusional Utterances? Speech Act Theory as a Tool for Understanding Delusions.

In my opinion, the paper should undergo a relatively thorough revision before it can be considered ready for publication.

References:

Julian Hofmann, Pablo Hubacher Haerle & Anke Maatz (2023) What’s the Linguistic Meaning of Delusional Utterances? Speech Act Theory as a Tool for Understanding Delusions, Philosophical Psychology, DOI: 10.1080/09515089.2023.2174424

Macran, S. and Shapiro, D.A. (1998), The role of personal therapy for therapists: A review. British Journal of Medical Psychology, 71: 13-25. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.2044-8341.1998.tb01364.x>