

# Review of: "Jung on the Meaning of Life"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

My reviews are usually succinct.

The manuscript is interesting and informative. As a non-expert of Jung, I learned a great deal. Nevertheless, I find two problems with this manuscript: (1) A conspicuous lack of linkage to philosophical and psychological existentialism, and (2) A no less conspicuous absence of an answer to the apparently inevitable "so what?" question.

1. I am learning that Jung was really an existentialist. However, no treatment whatsoever is provided of the link between Jung's ideas and the wide range of ideas within existential philosophy and psychology emanated both in the continent and in North America. A lot of Jung's ideas appear in the works of Heidegger, Sartre, Caputo, Erast Becker, Rollo May, Irving Yalom and others. I don't believe that an academic paper tackling Jung's view on meaning should ignore such a linkage. This is particularly so given that Jung, prior to meeting Freud, was working with Ludwig Binswanger in Burgholzly Hospital, and according to Freud's biographer Peter Gay has joined Jung in his first visit to Freud's house in Vienna. It was Ludwig Binswanger who later on developed Dialectical Analysis, a theory integrating Freud and Heidegger.
2. Assuming that Jung's view of meaning is such that is described in the paper: So what? What are the implications for (1) the history of ideas, (2) our understanding of personality and consciousness, (3) psychotherapeutic practices? These questions must be addressed.