

Peer Review

Review of: "Consciousness, Neo-Idealism and the Myth of Mental Illness"

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1. Balance Between Philosophy and Empirical Psychiatry

While the philosophical discussion is extensive, the manuscript risks presenting an overly dismissive stance toward established psychiatric evidence. Large bodies of research support biological, genetic, and neurodevelopmental contributions to psychiatric disorders. A more balanced presentation acknowledging empirical psychiatric findings is recommended.

2. Risk of Overgeneralization

Statements implying that mental illness is primarily social or existential may oversimplify complex multifactorial disorders. Modern psychiatry recognizes biopsychosocial models that integrate biological, psychological, and social determinants. Incorporating discussion of these frameworks would strengthen academic credibility.

3. Limited Engagement with Clinical Evidence

The manuscript references clinical examples but does not sufficiently engage with:

Neuroimaging findings

Genetic and epigenetic evidence

Treatment outcome research

Including brief acknowledgment of this literature would improve scholarly balance.

4. Conceptual Ambiguity

Some neo-idealist claims are presented as potentially explanatory models of psychiatric illness. These perspectives remain speculative and metaphysical rather than empirically testable. The manuscript would benefit from clearly distinguishing philosophical interpretation from scientific evidence.

5. Ethical and Clinical Implications

While the manuscript critiques coercive psychiatric practices, it does not sufficiently address scenarios where treatment protects patient safety or public health. Discussion of ethical complexity would improve nuance.

Minor Suggestions

Clarify definitions of “mental illness,” “disease,” and “disorder” early in the manuscript.

Reduce repetition in sections describing panpsychism and idealism.

Strengthen the concluding section by outlining practical implications for clinical psychiatry or psychotherapy.

Consider briefly discussing modern integrative psychiatric models.

Scientific and Educational Value

The manuscript contributes meaningfully to:

Philosophy of psychiatry

Medical humanities

Consciousness studies

Ethical debates in mental health care

It is particularly valuable as a reflective and conceptual commentary rather than an empirical clinical analysis

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.