

# Review of: "Alienation, Values and the Destruction of the Subject"

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

Alienation is an interesting topic and worth exploration as this moment in history. Various forms of alienation are widely observed. I was thus happy to review this paper. The issue of values is also very prominent in psychology (in ACT for example) and is many leadership theories (see Brene Brown's work). To bring these together is interesting.

The author is aiming to develop an argument that alienation causes a split in the human subject where the subject acts against their freely chosen values. Using Freud and psychoanalysis as a significant element, this idea is not altogether new. The psychoanalytic subject attempts to reconcile their 'desire' with the pressure of the social order. Failure to do so results in neurosis (a form of alienation according to the author). The author also connects this form of alienation with Marxist theory, not unlike Fromm has done in many works. Does subjective values equate with desire? This is an interesting question not answered by the author in my opinion.

My problem with the paper is that it is not very well argued or well structured. It fails to define and explore the concepts of alienation and values early in the paper as fundamental issues. This creates confusion and perplexity in exactly what is being explored. Much of the literature review is a case of "this person said ..." and "this person said ....". Its like a undergraduate essay, not a coherent argument.

Also the "destruction of the subject", which is the title - doesn't feature much. This also leads to confusion.

Overall if this were a classic journal, I would recommend rejection. I realise the author probably is not a native English speaker and this requires understanding. But the arguments are not strong enough for me.

Advice: think about what the core issues are - define them. What is your core argument - spell it out. Then add something original (perhaps the elusive destruction of the subject) and wrap it up.