

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

If the author really wants to go beyond Freud's naturalistic preference and explore alienation from philosophical angle, he/she must (but didn't) understand how Lacan and Žižek talk about alienation, especially the Lacan's conceptual couple of alienation and separation: separation as redoubled alienation is nothing but the failed alienation, which means the big Other itself is barred/inconsistent. As Žižek paraphrases Hegel: "The enigmas of the Ancient Egyptians were enigmas also for the Egyptians themselves." Our distance from society is the distance of society from itself. Dis-alienation means the subject realizes that its lack coincides with the lack in the Other, and recognizes its own lack in the decentered Other. In this sense, the author is knocking an open door, since alienation is constitutive of the subject. There is no subject without alienation; the subject emerges through alienation. Alienation/self-estrangement/the loss of one's wholeness is the very condition of subjectivity and inner freedom.