

ABSTRACT:

In our human condition, we are always vulnerable to the will of others, be they persons, groups, institutions, or society itself. Existence itself therefore presents a structural issue that is already an intrinsic alienation, in the sense that, insofar as we begin to express ourselves, namely, through our work, our possessions, and in what we produce, we can come to dispossess ourselves. I argue that an exploration of our understanding of work and alienation, taking into account the earlier writing of Marx and also Levinas, enables us to see how therapy can appropriate, or re-appropriate, a position in society in terms of 'inside-outside', to use a term introduced by Derrida. Essentially, such an appropriation is made possible through a 'proper' understanding of human subjectivity, or the living self, as opposed to the 'dead' products that we can become when materialized, objectified, or totalized. This invites the possibility of addressing and finding ways to live in a non-alienating way by its exploration and experience in the therapeutic relationship.