

Narcissism and the Empty Self: To Have or To Be.

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Abstract:

The author examines narcissism from a broad perspective, looking at the impact of sociocultural, historical, political factors. Using this perspective, narcissism is characterized as a "disease" based upon overconsumption. A number of studies provide an analysis of narcissism as a product of sociocultural influences. This idea is compared and contrasted with the Journal of Psychology. Using Cushman's (1990) work on the empty self, the author illustrates both the contributions and limitations of postmodern critique of narcissism. The work of Erich Fromm (1976) is used to correct for the limitations of postmodernism, allowing for narcissism to be understood as both a spiritual and social problem. Again, parallels with Individual Psychology are discussed.

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