

ANCA TIUREAN & MARA BUMBUC, WEST UNIVERSITY TIMISOARA
MASTER: PHILOSOPHICAL COUNSELING AND CONSULTANCY

Threads of Understanding Developing Interpretive Competence with Stoicism

NPCA 2024

FEBRUARY 2024 -- THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON PHILOSOPHICAL COUNSELING & PRACTICE (NPCA)



RESEARCH CONTENTS

What is hermeneutics (the art of interpretation)

What is interpretation for (relevance of skills)

Evidence & subjectivity in interpretation

Common problems in interpretation

Addressing these problems with philosophical practice

Philosophical stimuli & interpretation exercises

FRAMES OF REFERENCE

SYSTEMIC: group activity = group dynamics & structure

RELATIONAL : focus on organisation and cohesion

EXPERIENTIAL : focus on unveiling what is meaningful



Format

Philosophical exercises

Layers / paradigms

Examination of evidence

Stimulus

Reformulation or paraphrasing

Identifying presuppositions

Conceptualising art works / texts

Instructions

Reading comprehension

Reflection on texts

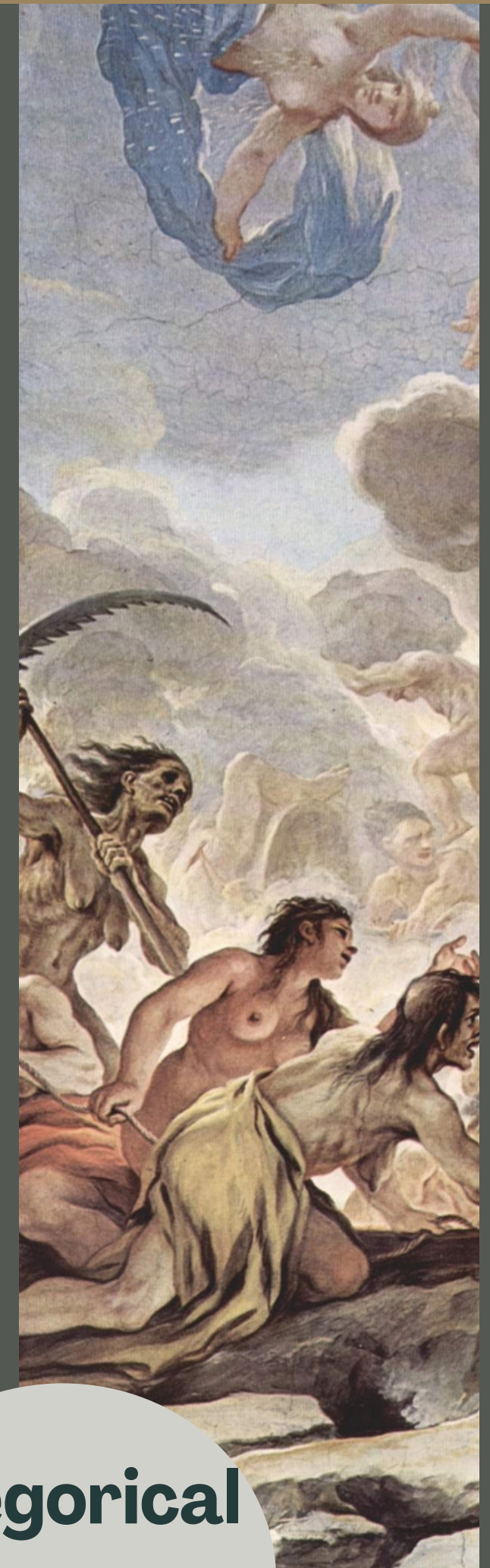
historical

phenome-
nological

practical

theological

allegorical



1
**Awareness
about self**

- “I understood that we’re all 'slaves' to something like lust, greed or fear.”
- “I realised that the topic of master/slave is a subject of meditation on a daily basis.”

2
**Threads of
understanding**

- “There are several types of interpretation of a text, not necessarily a wrong or right one.”
- “It’s about the quality of “*your opinion*” not about the “*right to your opinion*”

3
**Reflections
on practice**

- “wow, you can actually find an answer no matter what text you use!”
- “And we can find different answers in the same text”

Insights



What is interpretation for?

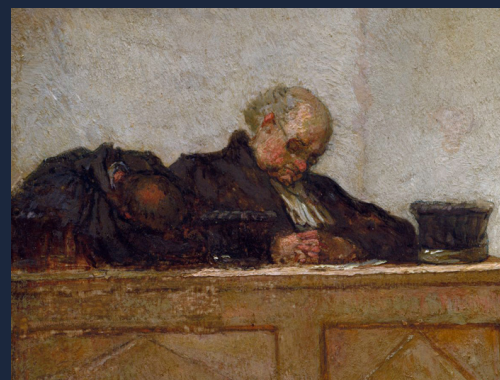
Understanding
discourse



1

Theology
Psychoanalysis
History

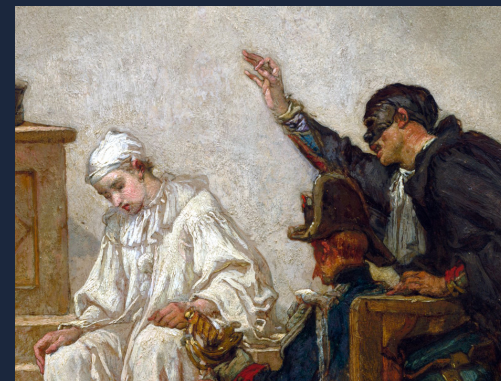
Revealing the
human subject



2

Counseling
Psychotherapy
Common dialogue

Defense &
justification



3

Diplomacy
Conflict mediation
Law & Civil rights

Provocation to
think critically



4

Parenting
Family dialogues
Education

Problems in interpretation

Psychological difficulties

- Rigid beliefs & stereotypes
- Self-image & identity
- Biases & fallacies
- Emotional reactivity
- Projective identification
- Discounting context / details
- Salience (noticeability)
- Confused expression
- Laziness, avoids effort



Errors

- Misinterpretation
- Underinterpretation
- Overinterpretation

Cognitive difficulties

- Repetition / tautology
- Inconsistency
- Undifferentiated
- Argumentation problems

Main competencies



EXPERIENTIAL : focus on unveiling what is meaningful
conceptualization
argumentation
indetification / verification of presuppositions

RELATIONAL : focus on organisation and cohesion
evaluation of arguments
confrontation
problematization

SYSTEMIC: group activity = group dynamics & structure
contextualization
specificity

References

Aristotle

- roots of concept: *hermeneia*
- in *Peri Hermeneia* (epistemology)

Heidegger

- Articulating, we participate
- we co-create what is disclosed

Gadamer

- art of interpretation = interaction
- interpretation shows: pra-judice, tradition, authority, horizon

Hirsch

- original meaning intended by author
- considering context & biography

Ricoeur

- working with implicit ideas (the hidden behind the shown)
- levels of interpretation (semantic, reflective, existential)

Brenifier

- interpretation exercises / practice
- identifying content & engaging with it => dealing with the subject



Discussion time

**Did you find something important for you
in our presentation? If yes, what?**

Do you have questions for us?

What further reading do you recommend?

**Have you worked with interpretation
in a group context and how did it go?**

