A Response to Paul Wong’s Editorial

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This is just a brief note to add my strong resonance with what has now become an outpouring of appreciation for Paul's (2004) editorial. I too was quite moved by Paul Wong’s impassioned clarion call for a renewed existential vision. As one who has long appreciated paradox in our theory and practice, not to mention life situation, I was especially heartened to see Paul's accent on this dimension (see Schneider, 1999; 2004). I am also energized by Paul's call for a mobilization of existential inquiry into social and political challenges of our time--I have much belief in the potential for existential psychology to contribute to our current dilemmas (the largest of which perhaps, revolve around fundamentalist dogma, both secular and religious, on the one hand, and postmodern caprice, on the other).

I also resonate to Ernesto Spinelli’s (2004) call for caution in this politically tinged arena: There have already been some very disturbing bypasses of this caution from among our own, so to speak, e.g., Heidegger's affiliation with National Socialism and Sartre's advocacy of Stalinism. On the other hand, I think the facts speak for themselves; this is no time for passivity, and my hope is that when the paradoxes of life are really taken seriously (as Paul has advocated), then there will be enough checks and balances in our worldview to provide people with a genuinely helpful alternative to their/our current debacle.

References


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