

ABSTRACT

An exploration of the personal experience of confirmation between human beings

An experimental, phenomenological approach was adopted for this enquiry into the human experience of confirmation. The inquiry was placed within a philosophic and scientific epistemology that traced the historical antecedents of Martin Buber's concept of the "between". Different notions of dialogue were discussed in addition to those of the Dialogical psychotherapy movement. Arguments for the appropriateness of a qualitative research methodology were presented. A total of five participants were involved in a co-operative inquiry into their own experience of confirmation, by means of tape-recorded interview. Findings demonstrated a good fit with existing theory on the subject. Mutuality was shown to be of central importance to all the participants. The possible link between confirmation and subsequent personal change was highlighted. The researcher suggests a need for a clearer language of confirmation.

Keyword Confirmation, phenomenon, mutuality, dialogue, psychotherapy.