

## SCIENCE / REVIEWS

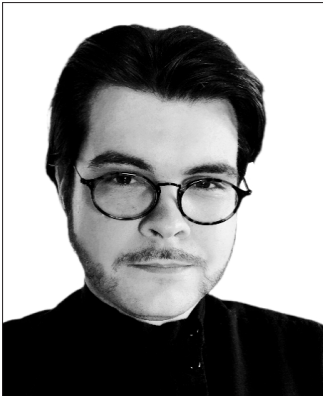
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### SAMARITAN AND CANNIBAL: PSYCHOANALYTIC BIOETHICS OF ORGANS TRANSPLANTATION\*

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**Keywords:** bioethics, transplantology, psychoanalysis, desire, body, embodiment, the Other

**Abstract:** The text reviews the latest work by the Dutch philosopher Hub Zwart, *Purloined Organs: Psychoanalysis of Transplant Organs as Objects of Desire*. Zwart builds his argument upon the observation that in the heart of transplantology there is a conflict of two discourses – biomedical and "Samaritan's" ones – which leads to considerable ontological implications. Biomedicine gets the human body engaged in extensive symbolization, which conditions significant transformation of bodily self-perception by the human. According to Zwart, one symptom of modernity is affirmation of (Lacan's) symbolic body. Despite the intuitive character of the concept, one cannot but notice certain inconsistencies. The review's author assumes

that those were primarily caused by Zwart's literalization of Lacan's desire formulas. This, in turn, leads to certain confusion: Zwart's ideas are caught up between the hammer and the anvil of the symbolic and the imaginary Other – so we cannot always distinguish one from another.

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## **References**

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