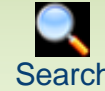




## Southern Public Administration Education Foundation



### **Unwittingly De-Humanizing Patients; Rehabilitating Informed Consent**

**Author: BARBARA J. RUSSELL**

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To guide interactions in a healthcare setting, informed consent is the doctrine that incorporates and operationalizes such seminal ethical concepts as autonomy, authority, duties, rights, and truth. In everyday practice, however, informed consent has become ethically impoverished because too much is overlooked. Three evocative metaphors from Marx, Heidegger, and feminist theorists are used to illustrate what routinely is omitted: alienation, inauthenticity, and silence. Examples of typical informed consent discussions are presented with recommendations of how to rehabilitate them so as to return to an enriched version of informed consent that is, at the same time, practical.

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