

**Sam Vaknin: Setting the Record Straight ([PDF version](#))**

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My [curriculum vitae \(biography\)](#) is available [here](#).

Follow me on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) ([my page](#) or [the book's](#)), [YouTube](#), or [FriendFeed](#)

### **The Sources of the Malicious Gossip against me**

The rumour that I had obtained my degree from a diploma mill is maliciously (and libellously) false.

It is also VERY old hat. It is based on the Wikipedia, the "encyclopaedia" that anyone can edit and which I nearly sued a few years ago (regarding an unrelated issue). In retaliation, Wikipedians (as members of this cult are known) started to disseminate (anonymously) libellous titbits about me:

Read [“The Six Sins of Wikipedia”](#)

Recently, fans of Barack Obama have joined them in spreading this canard as “revenge” for suggesting that their idol may be a narcissist:

Read [“Barack Obama: Narcissist or Merely Narcissistic?”](#) (July 2008)

### **My Academic Ph.D. Degree**

I studied in 1982-3 in ENCINO, California. At that time, there was a university there called "Pacific" (yes, replete with a campus with very real students, faculty, exams, and all the paraphernalia of higher education.)

Later, to distinguish itself from other Pacific universities, it added the moniker "Western". Sometime during the 1990s it merged out of existence.

I have never been to Hawaii, let alone studied there. The diploma mill that used to call itself "Pacific Western University" (and then was litigated into changing its name) was based in Honolulu.

To obtain my Ph.D., I had to submit a dissertation and defend it.

That I have a bona fide doctorate is very easy to prove: it is available from the Library of Congress and from UMI.

HOW TO VIEW MY DOCTORAL DISSERTATION (Click [here](#) to view [photo of my diploma](#).)

To see a list of some of the books I had published in the English language (including my doctoral dissertation), please follow this procedure:

1. Go to the Library of Congress Catalog by clicking on this link:

<http://catalog.loc.gov/>

2. Click on Basic Search

3. Select Author/Creator Browse from the Search Type pull-down menu

4. Type "Vaknin" in the Search Text dialog box.

My books (and doctoral dissertation) are listed under Vaknin, Sam; Vaknin, Sem; and Vaknin, Samuel.

To view my books click on "Vaknin, Samuel" and "Vaknin, Sem" and select the Full Record tabs.

To view my doctoral dissertation, click on "Vaknin, Sam".

You will be forwarded to a page titled:

Time Asymmetry Revisited

Select the Full Record tab.

My dissertation is also included in UMI's databases (University Microfilms International).

Click [here](#) to read some correspondence which may be of interest in this respect.

### **My Work on Pathological Narcissism and the Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD)**

My NPD ([Narcissistic Personality Disorder](#)) Website and forums were the FIRST EVER on the Internet. My book was written in 1995-6 and the entire text was posted online in 1997.

I was the one who popularized the issue of narcissistic abuse online and in print. The very language used today to describe the experiences of victims of narcissists and psychopaths ("no contact", "narcissistic supply", "devalue and discard", and so on) was invented by me in the mid-1990s.

**My books are based on the latest research in the field and on scholarly works by the leading experts on personality disorders. Many of the chapters contain detailed bibliographies.**

My book - **Malignant Self Love - Narcissism Revisited** (now in its eighth, revised, impression) and the content of [my Web site](#) are based on correspondence since 1996 with **hundreds of people suffering from the Narcissistic Personality Disorder (narcissists) and with thousands of their family members, friends, therapists, and colleagues.**

I, myself, have been diagnosed with the disorder (twice) and spent time in therapy and almost a decade discussing it in depth (mainly through correspondence) with mental health professionals the world over.

My online mailing lists alone sport well over **26,000 members** - of which **1000 are therapists, social workers, psychiatrists and psychologists** - for example here:

[Narcissistic Abuse List](#)

**Everything I write is backed by extensive bibliographies.** You can [download some of them here](#).

That NPD is incurable is the view of virtually all major scholars in the field - not only mine.

**My Web site contains over 1400 pages of content - a total of 15,000 print pages, full text online, at no charge.**

**Out of 40 books I wrote, [I offer 30 e-books here for download at no charge](#)** (hardly a commercial practice).

**I never claimed to be a mental health professional.** The [disclaimer on my Web site](#) is unequivocal and prominently displayed.

**But I am certified by Brainbench in Counselling Techniques** (with [a very high mark](#)).

**Brainbench are an online certification agency.** Anyone and everyone can access their Web site and take their tests. BUT, the tests are very difficult, time limited, and you still have to PASS the tests to get a certificate! And they have [a very impressive roster of clients](#).

**"By partnering with Brainbench, 6 million members have advanced their skills and their careers, and over 4,000 businesses have found better ways to screen and select candidates, track and develop employee skills, and differentiate employees to current and prospective clients.**

**Corporate clients include numerous members of the Fortune 500, various U.S. Government agencies, and several universities and colleges.**

**Brainbench is ISO 9001:2000 certified! We are the first online testing company to obtain this accomplishment for its test development process."**

As I said, I am the author of "Malignant Self Love - Narcissism Revisited". **The media and many mental health professionals seem to think that my work makes me an authority on narcissism.**

See this random selection I Googled – click on these links:

[What mental health professionals say about my work.](#)

My work is quoted in more than 1000 scholarly publications and in over 5000 books

Search for "Sam Vaknin" on **Amazon**, **Google**, and on **Google Scholar** – or, Click on these links:

[Citation of my work in scholarly journals](#) (Google Scholar)

[My work cited in books about Narcissism](#) (Amazon)

[My work cited in well over 3000 books](#) (Google Books)

[My work cited in an additional 4000 books](#) (Google Books)

[My work on narcissism cited in the literature](#) (Google Scholar)

You can [download some of the scholarly and media articles which cite my work here.](#)

**Financial Times:** [\*When narcissism becomes pathological\*](#) (click [HERE](#) to download the article)

[Shooting stirs gun debate](#) (Prague Post)

[The Monster in the Mirror](#) (Sunday Times)

[Channel 4 \(UK\) Documentary Egomania](#) ([Wikipedia article](#))

[WebMD Chat](#)

[Executives Are Smitten, and Undone, by Their Own Images](#) (**New-York Times**)

[Nobody Loves T.O. Like T.O. Loves T.O.](#) (**Washington Post**)

[Celebrities Just Want to be Left Alone](#) (USA Today)

[New Narc City: Sam Vaknin and the Narcissism of Wall Street](#) (**New-York Press**)

**"Sam Vaknin is the world's leading expert on narcissism."**

Tim Hall, New York Press, Volume 16, Issue 7 - February 12, 2003

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)**

**"Vaknin's a respected expert on malignant narcissists ... He set about to know everything there is about the psychopathic narcissist."**

Ian Walker, [ABC Radio National Background Briefing, July 18, 2004](#)

[The Infinite Mind radio program](#)

[Narcissism in the Boardroom](#) (United Press International/UPI - [Part I](#), [Part II](#))

[Faultless Nation](#) by Cal Thomas

[More! Magazine: Has your man got a cheating disorder](#)

**Toronto Sun**

**CanWest News service and Newspapers Network**

You can find the full texts of these articles here:

<http://www.narcissistic-abuse.com/NPDBibliography.zip>

**Santa Cruz Sentinel**

<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2005/April/24/style/stories/06style.htm>

Links to many additional radio and online guest appearances, chats, and interviews in my [media kit](#).

**Documentary Films about Me and My Work**

[Egomania](#) Channel 4 (United Kingdom) - on the [Wikipedia](#) - [Watch It](#)

["I, Psychopath" Documentary](#) (Arte, CBC) - on IMDB ([Vaknin](#) and ["I, Psychopath"](#))

Ian Walker, the hostile and envious director of "I, Psychopath" paid me to participate in the film. I understood from him that I had to act the part of a rabid, stereotypical psychopath, which I did.

I scored 18 in the [PCL-R test](#) administered in the film. This is a high score, but the cut-off point for psychopaths is 30. I definitely have [antisocial](#) tendencies – but I am [not a psychopath](#).

The concluding scene in the film in which I "admit" that my doctorate hails from a diploma mill is the result of manipulative editing of the raw footage. View the segment carefully: I actually insist there that [my doctorate is genuine](#), that I had to defend it and that it was granted to me by a bona fide university, replete with a campus and in situ classes. (Click [here](#) to view [photo of my diploma](#).) In response to Walker's prompting, I explained to him the differences between diploma mills and my university. My description of a typical diploma mill was taken out of context to imply that I have purchased my doctorate from one (which I emphatically did not!): hence the "incriminating" sentences in the film's last three minutes.

[Sam Vaknin](#)

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***Correspondence regarding Sam Vaknin's Doctoral Dissertation***

----- Original Message -----

From: "Dawn Perri" <[puccinsk@2xtreme.net](mailto:puccinsk@2xtreme.net)>

To: <[sam@vessolink.ru](mailto:sam@vessolink.ru)>

Sent: Sunday, November 23, 1997 1:01 AM

Here is the reply I received with respect to your dissertation

Pax.

D Perri

From: "Connell, Bonnie" <[bconnell@umi.com](mailto:bconnell@umi.com)>

To: "'[puccinsk@2xtreme.net](mailto:puccinsk@2xtreme.net)'" <[puccinsk@2xtreme.net](mailto:puccinsk@2xtreme.net)>

Subject: RE: Vaknin

Date: Thu, 20 Nov 1997 15:08:21 -0500

X-Mailer: Microsoft Exchange Server Internet Mail Connector Version 4.0.995.52

From: Liming, Lee

Sent: Thursday, November 20, 1997 1:31 PM

To: Sales Support

Subject: FW: Vaknin

From: Dawn Perri[SMTP:[puccinsk@2xtreme.net](mailto:puccinsk@2xtreme.net)]

Sent: Thursday, November 20, 1997 12:41 PM

To: Webmaster

Subject: Vaknin

I am looking for a dissertation that was registered with your service in the early 1980's. The Author is Sam Vaknin, and the title of the dissertation is "Time Asymmetry Re-Visited" , I did not have any luck finding it with your search engine. I am reasonably sure that it is registered with your service, as the author himself has directed me here for a copy.

Thank you for your time,  
Dawn Perri

Thank you for your recent inquiry. The dissertation(s) or thesis(es) you requested is/are available from UMI. To order by phone please call 1-800-521-3042. If you wish to pay by check or money order, please mail your request to the address listed below. Copies can also be ordered over the Internet at <http://wwwlib.umi.com/dxweb/gateway>. Please feel free to contact a UMI representative if you require further assistance.

Best regards.

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Academic(students/faculty) Non-Academic  
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Paper - hardcover: \$43.50 Paper - hardcover: \$69.50  
Film/Fiche: \$32.50 Film/Fiche: \$46.00

Author Title Order #

Please allow 2-3 weeks delivery time.  
A 5 to 6 day rush service is available for an additional \$25 per copy.  
Some restrictions may apply.

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Hart [mailto:[hart@pglaf.org](mailto:hart@pglaf.org)]  
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2007 9:05 AM  
To: Book People  
Cc: Michael S. Hart; [hart@pobox.com](mailto:hart@pobox.com); [hart@readingroo.ms](mailto:hart@readingroo.ms)  
Subject: [BP] Sam Vaknin's PhD Thesis

A bit of factual evidence on Sam Vaknin's doctorate that, perhaps, takes us a little more out of the subjective realm:

While I am certainly no authority on "diploma mills" and the like, but I have never heard of one that would have required or accepted a 225 page Doctoral Thesis. Even more suprising would be accepted theses of such institutions by Uniersity Microfilms Interenational of Ann Arbor, Michigan, pretty much the world thesis authority and then accepted by the Library of Congress, whose entry follows:

Time asymmetry re-visited by Sam Vaknin.

LC Control Number: 85133690

Type of Material: Book (Print, Microform, Electronic, etc.)

Personal Name: Vaknin, Sam.

Main Title: Time asymmetry re-visited [microform] / by Sam Vaknin.

Published/Created: 1982, c1984.

Description: [225] leaves.

Notes: Thesis (Ph. D.)--Pacific Western University, 1982.

Microfilm. Ann Arbor, MI : University Microfilms International, 1984.

1 microfilm reel ; 35 mm.

LC Classification: Microfilm 85/871 (Q)