

SYLLABUS: EDMUND HUSSERL'S PHENOMENOLOGY AND ITS APPLICATIONS

Phenomenological Research Class at GSSR IFIS PAN

Academic Year 2020

Key concepts of phenomenology

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With the 1st and 2nd *International Research Summer School in Genetic Phenomenology* (2018, 2019) a **new syllabus dedicated to Edmund Husserl's Phenomenology** has been introduced at the Graduate School for Social Research. To this syllabus belongs a **phenomenological research class starting in May 2020** at the GSSR. The class aims at providing the participants with strong competences regarding

- key concepts of Husserl's Phenomenology
- innovative research perspectives
- the interdisciplinary potential of Phenomenology.

A pilot seminar has already taken place in May 2018. The **class** starting in May 2020 **will be realized on the digital platform zoom**. In August 2021 a 3rd *International Research Summer School in Genetic Phenomenology* will conclude the course. In the framework of the syllabus further initiatives are planned, for example lectures and workshops led by visiting scholars and invited experts. Jagna Brudzinska as the scientific director of this initiatives is responsible for design of its content.

Phenomenology was developed by Edmund Husserl and is one of the most influential and promising philosophies of the last century. It is characterized by an original non-naturalistic approach to human consciousness and human experience. Currently, we connect the notion of Phenomenology also with thinkers like M. Heidegger, M. Merleau-Ponty, E. Levinas and other poststructuralist authors. However, the potential of the Husserlian phenomenological account is not yet exhausted. The reception of Husserl's thought was unfortunately interrupted by the historical events that have shaped Europe's destiny in the last century. Today, also thanks to the editorial work of the Husserl-Archives in Leuven and Cologne, we are able to unfold new meanings of the Husserlian philosophy. In this context, new potentialities of Husserl's research emerge, both confirming the topicality of his thinking and requiring a new investigation into the human experiencing consciousness.

Particularly from the genetic point of view, consciousness is neither a collection of representations, of images of reality, nor is it a theoretical structure, merely functional for the interpretation of reality. Consciousness is rather an open, bodily, temporally, affectively determined structure of sense performing experience. Most important, it is a socially and practically determined and bound structure.

Intentionality is the basic structure of the experiencing consciousness. However, what I mean with intentionality here is not an intellectual performance of representation. I rather intend to point out a worldly determination of intentionality, i.e. an intentionality embedded in the life-world, that means in culture, history, affectivity, social phenomena, communication and so on.

Human and social sciences still have a lot to learn from the phenomenological approach. From the epistemological and methodological point of view, genetic phenomenology

appears to provide the most promising concepts and tools for the investigation of human experience, especially with regard to social and conflict experience. From a genetic-phenomenological point of view, conflict belongs structurally to subjectivity and determines the intra- and inter-subjective development dynamics. These considerations imply new possible applications of the phenomenological analysis in the field of social experience, which certainly go beyond any essentialism, at the same time complying with the new social challenges and the change of paradigm in society.

The syllabus for Phenomenology at the GSSR-IFIS PAN includes three main sections:

1. Key concepts of Phenomenology

- Consciousness and intentionality – theoretical and practical perspectives
- Dimensions of consciousness experience: time, lived body, affectivity, imagination, intersubjectivity
- Methods of phenomenological descriptions (phenomenological and transcendental reduction, eidetic method)
- Historical Contextualisation (Philosophy of Life, German Idealism, Philosophical Anthropology, Social Theory, Gestalt Theory)

2. Genetic Phenomenology

- Phenomenology of lived Experience and the Method of Genetic Analysis
- Non-naturalistic Account: Personal Experience, Social Experience and Experience of the Unconscious
- Process research
- Interdisciplinary research

3. Applications of Genetic Phenomenology

- Basic theoretical research: New concepts for Social, Political and Developmental Challenges
- Conflict and Conflict-transformation (Social- and Conflict-research)
- Psychology, Psychoanalysis (Motivational Research)
- Social theory, Political Theory, Public Ethics (Qualitative Research)

Participation of international lecturers and researchers from the area of phenomenology is planned. The official language of the class is English. However, if the participants' German skills do allow it, it is also possible to hold the class in German.

Each class will focus on one of Husserl's texts. The digital version of the texts will be made available.

Literature

The class starting in May 2020 will approach Edmund Husserl's: *Grundprobleme der Phänomenologie* (1910/1911), in Husserl, Edmund: *Zur Phänomenologie der Intersubjektivität. Texte aus dem Nachlass. Erster Teil. 1905–1920.* Hrsg., I. Kern. Den Haag, 111 *Husserliana*, Bd. XIII., 111-235.

English Translation:

Edmund Husserl: *The Basic Problems of Phenomenology. From the Lectures, Winter Semester, 1910-1911.* Dordrecht 2006.

Further literature will be indicated during the course.

Schedule

Tuesday, 11am-1pm:

26. May, 16. June, 30. June, 14. July, 15. Sept, 29. Sep., 13. Oct., 3 Nov. 24. Nov.,
8. Dec.

Registration

Please, send an e-mail with a short self-presentation and background description to:
jbrudzinska@gmail.com

An invitation to join the zoom meeting will be sent after the registration.