

The Institute of Philosophy of the
Research Centre for the Humanities of the
Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Announces a Final Call for Papers
for an International Conference on the Topic:

Horizons Beyond Borders

Traditions and Perspectives of the
Phenomenological Movement in
Central and Eastern Europe

17–19 June, 2015

Budapest, Hungary

Confirmed invited speakers include:

Michael Gubser (James Madison University)

George Heffernan (Merrimack College)

Marci Shore (Yale University)

Nicolas de Warren (KU Leuven)

Please send paper proposals

BY THE EXTENDED DEADLINE OF MARCH 8, 2015

See below for more information

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Conference Description

The main idea of the conference *Horizons Beyond Borders: Traditions and Perspectives of the Phenomenological Movement in Central and Eastern Europe* is to explore the place of phenomenology in contemporary philosophy in Central and Eastern Europe. It has long been understood that the circumstances of the Phenomenological Movement in this part of the world were dramatically defined by the politics of the times. The generally hostile conditions for doing philosophy affected phenomenology specifically, in so far as it was officially regarded as an idealistic, bourgeois, and regressive philosophy. As a result, many philosophers in the phenomenological tradition, including some direct students of Edmund Husserl, were accused of “idealism”, labeled as “enemies of materialism”, and prohibited from teaching. Despite these adversarial circumstances, however, many phenomenologists presented interesting and important interpretations of philosophical issues. Some did phenomenology while bracketing political commitments, whereas others were strongly engaged in political activities. One need only recall such leading figures as, for example, Alexandru Dragomir, Eugen Enyvvári, Václav Havel, Roman Ingarden, Karel Kosík, Krzysztof Michalski, Constantin Noica, Jan Patočka, Wilhelm Szilasi, Józef Tischner, Karol Wojtyła, and many others. The full potential of their phenomenology, both its hopeful promise and its tragic history, constitutes a rich heritage that continues to define our contemporary philosophical horizons.

Although many philosophers of that time were completely isolated, phenomenology in Central and Eastern Europe has developed in a steady dialog beyond national borders and ideological boundaries. Our ambition is to determine the contemporary status of this increasingly trans-regional Phenomenological Movement, both in the light of its legacy and above and beyond it. Our questions include but are not limited to the following: Are there any common features of phenomenological approaches in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe? What can we say about the leitmotifs of this phenomenology? How can we understand the relationship between phenomenology and Marxism? Are there any influences of Marxism on phenomenology or vice versa? What, if any, was the function of phenomenology with respect to resistance movements to Communist regimes? How can we define the current trends in phenomenology in Central and Eastern Europe and its possible paths of development in the future? What is the original contribution of the phenomenology of this part of Europe to major contemporary philosophical issues? In addressing these and related concerns, we also propose to raise the question of the future of the Phenomenological Movement in Central and Eastern Europe. The ultimate aim of the conference is to present scholars with a first-time opportunity to discuss the wide and rich range of phenomenological ideas that have been discovered in Central and Eastern Europe.

Planned Sessions

- ❖ **Roots:** The historical roots of Central and Eastern European phenomenology and its philosophical predecessors are well known. For example, Bolzano was born in Prague, Bohemia; Twardowski studied with Brentano in Vienna; and even Husserl was born in Prostejov (Prossnitz), Moravia. But is it possible to relate the emergence and development of early phenomenology to the specific philosophical and political conditions of Central and Eastern Europe in the 19th century?
- ❖ **Figures:** Central and Eastern European philosophers participated in the prewar and interwar stages of the Phenomenological Movement. Here presentations on lesser known figures and comparative investigations of their works are especially welcome.
- ❖ **Beyond Borders:** Are there any general characteristics of phenomenology as it has been practiced in Central and Eastern Europe, and has there been any specific influence of that phenomenology on the philosophical and political development of its host countries?
- ❖ **Beyond Politics:** How has phenomenology been understood in the political contexts of Central and Eastern Europe? Is it possible to ground politics phenomenologically? Or is it rather the case that politics cannot be the object of phenomenological inquiry? How can we define the relationship between phenomenology and Marxism? Are we justified in speaking of a “dialog” between phenomenology and Marxism in Central and Eastern Europe?
- ❖ **Beyond Particularism:** Did phenomenology collaborate with other currents of philosophy in Central and Eastern Europe? Here we are also looking for contributions that analyze the contemporary situation of phenomenology in Central and Eastern European countries.
- ❖ **New Phenomenology:** This section is devoted to original research on any aspect of phenomenology and its history by scholars with academic affiliation in Central and Eastern Europe.
- ❖ **László Tengelyi Commemorative Session:** The saddening sudden death of the Hungarian born phenomenologist László Tengelyi (1954–2014) has deprived Central and Eastern European Phenomenology of one of its best-known and most capable representatives. For this session we are soliciting contributions on Tengelyi’s oeuvre and his impact on contemporary phenomenology.
- ❖ **Krzysztof Michalski Commemorative Session:** Krzysztof Michalski (1948-2013) was a Polish phenomenologist, the co-founder and rector of the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) in Vienna that promotes intellectual exchange among scholars from different fields, societies and cultures. For this session we are expecting contributions on Michalski’s philosophy and phenomenology, as well as his organizational work and influences on present-day phenomenological movement.

Further information

The conference will take place in the historical castle district in a [Baroque style mansion](#).

We welcome proposals in **English (main language), German, and French**.

Proposals will be evaluated in a process of blind peer-review.

Contributions are welcome from both junior (pre-doc, post-doc) and senior scholars from every part of the world. The only geographically constrained section is the “New Phenomenology” session, which aims to present new research on any phenomenological topic by scholars with academic affiliation in Central and Eastern Europe.

Please submit an abstract of up to **2000 characters**, including references, which is to be prepared for anonymous review, together with a separate affiliation sheet containing your contact address and academic affiliations (including all geographically relevant ones) to both **witoldplotka@gmail.com** and **peter.andras.varga@gmail.com**

Please also indicate the proposed session assignment(s) of your contribution.

The EXTENDED deadline for submissions is March 8, 2015.

A regular registration fee is 50 € (30 € for PhD students). Partial or full reductions are planned based on a pending grant application.

The time limits for speakers are: **20 minutes for presentation + 10 minutes for discussion.**

For more information see:

ceephenomenology2015.husserl.hu