

Workshop

Micro-phenomenology

Prof. Dr. Natalie Depraz
Université de Rouen Normandie / Husserl-Archives ENS Paris

Heidelberg, February 17th, 2020



Organization:

Prof. Dr. Dr. Thomas Fuchs
PD Dr. Leonor Irarrázaval
PD Dr. Valeria Bizzari

Section Phenomenological Psychopathology and Psychotherapy
Department of General Psychiatry
Heidelberg University Hospital

Venue:

Karl Jaspers Bibliothek
Voßstr. 4

9.00-12.00 / 13.30-16.30 hrs.

Fee:

25 euros

Registration:

Ms. Christine Breit, Secretary Prof. Dr. Dr. Thomas Fuchs
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(limited places)

Natalie Depraz is a philosopher specialized in German philosophy, phenomenology and, particularly, in the work of Edmund Husserl. She is professor at the University of Rouen and faculty member of the Husserl Archives at the École Normale Supérieure of Paris. She worked closely with the neurobiologist Francisco Varela and the psychologist Pierre Vermersch, with whom she co-authored the book "On becoming aware. A pragmatics experiencing" (2003). Among her more recent publications: "*La surprise du sujet. Un sujet cardinal*" (Zeta books, 2018) and her first fiction "*L'endroit*" (Genève, 5 sens éditions, 2019).

Outline of the Workshop

Microphenomenology is a descriptive phenomenological method which has been developed by the psychologist Pierre Vermersch more than thirty years ago (*L'entretien d'explicitation*, Paris, ESF, 1994). By means of in-depth interviews it allows to collect very precise descriptions of situated experiences from the 1st-person perspective, and to compare these descriptions in order to detect possible invariants.

The technique of the interview is non-directive regarding the content of the experience gathered, but directive in structure, which makes it possible to discover the fine-grained temporality of an experience and its sensory, affective, imaginative, and attentional modalities. More broadly, it allows to access the character of the subject's pre-reflective activity, most often performed spontaneously. First used to better understand how a subject does what he/she does (doing it well but not *knowing* how to do it well), this method has been extended to the knowledge of sensory modalities and bodily experiences (Petitmengin, 2001), then to the field of emotions and pathologies (Depraz 2015, 2017, 2018).

The technique is useful in all fields of research in human sciences (psychology, sociology, economics, history, literature, philosophy, educational sciences) and in the experimental sciences (neurosciences, biology, physics), as soon as one conducts an empirical investigation aiming, on the one hand, to gather information on the singular experience of the subject in its different components, and on the other hand, to correlate 1st- with 3rd-person data, like behavioural, physiological, or neural.

The workshop will include an overview on the history of the microphenomenological technique and a description of its main tools. There will also be an opportunity to start practicing it in the framework of small groups, which will be followed by an exchange on the interviews conducted.

Note: Detailed programme TBA.