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The Past into the Future: Duquesne Studies in Phenomenology

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THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE:

DUQUESNE STUDIES IN PHENOMENOLOGY

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We at Duquesne University and the new online instantiation of Duquesne University Press are very pleased to bring this inaugural issue of the *Duquesne Studies in Phenomenology* into the world.

Phenomenology has been central at Duquesne ever since the 1950s, when the Spiritan priest and philosopher Fr. Henry Koren brought Fr. Herman von Breda, who was the Director of the Husserl Archives in Louvain, to visit Duquesne. Against the backdrop of his education in a dry neo-scholasticism in philosophy and theology still all too prevalent in the Catholic intellectual world, Koren was excited and delighted to explore this new philosophical approach to the deepest questions of human existence. About the same time, Fr. Adriaan van Kaam, another Holy Ghost Father, set about to revolutionize the study of psychology here at Duquesne by using a phenomenological and human science orientation to counter the various reductionist programs in psychology then on offer: a “rats-and-cheese” behaviorist model on the one hand, and a rigid “ego psychology” psychoanalysis.

One expression of the phenomenological approach at Duquesne is the Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center, founded in 1980 by Profs. John Sallis of the Philosophy Department and Prof. Amedeo Giorgi of the Psychology Department. The Phenomenology Center continues today as a major research center for the study and dissemination of phenomenology through its archives,

its special collection, and its annual symposia and lectures on campus and at the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy.

Another expression of the phenomenological heritage of Duquesne was Duquesne University Press. Under the good leadership of Mr. John Dowds, and then Ms. Susan Wadsworth-Booth, Duquesne University Press for several decades published major works in the history of phenomenology (e.g. Levinas's *Totality and Infinity* and Merleau-Ponty's *Structure of Behavior*, to name two). The press also published contemporary monographs and edited volumes on figures such as Husserl, Heidegger, Edith Stein, and Levinas, as well as important work in phenomenological psychology by Amedeo Giorgi and others.

This new online venture aims to continue the work of the Silverman Center and the University Press in a new way. With the eventual aim of publishing two issues a year, often guest-edited by major figures in the field, the *Duquesne Studies in Phenomenology* will serve as an interdisciplinary work interested in all facets of the tradition and future of phenomenology. Issues might focus on figures in the tradition, living figures, or contemporary problems like ecology, neuroscience, and politics. The project explicitly aims to be interdisciplinary by exploring not only philosophical questions, but also psychological, ethnographic, literary, and aesthetic issues as well. Anyone who is interested in guest-editing an issue is very welcome to contact Dr. Jeffrey McCurry at the Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center with a proposal. With respect to our first issue, "Hermeneutics Today," we are very grateful to Guest Editor Prof. James Risser of Seattle University as well as our distinguished contributors. We are also grateful for the hard work of Dr. Sara Baron, Dr. James Swindal, Mr. Matthew Jones, Ms. Christine Heller, Mr. Robert Behary, Ms. Gesina Phillips, Ms. Amanda Sawyer, and Mr. Nicholas Seow for their help. We are also appreciative of President Kenneth Gormley, Provost David Dausey, and Dr. Jeffrey Miller here at Duquesne for supporting this venture.

We look forward to discovering with you the future itinerary of the *Duquesne Studies in Phenomenology*.