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Editor's Introduction

James Risser
Seattle University, jrisser@seattleu.edu

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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

JAMES RISSE

Seattle University

It is a great pleasure to be the guest editor for the first issue of *The Duquesne Studies in Phenomenology*, sponsored by The Simon Silverman Center for Phenomenology at Duquesne University. The heritage of the Silverman Center at Duquesne University and the former Duquesne University Press has always been closely connected with the tradition of phenomenology and contemporary continental philosophy in general. My own connection to the Center and to Duquesne University has been a close one. Not only did I receive my Ph.D. from Duquesne University, I was also the Visiting Phenomenology Scholar at the Simon Silverman Center in the Spring of 2016. While at the Center I quickly realized just how much of a vibrant center it is for research in the rich tradition of contemporary continental philosophy.

This issue is devoted to the topic "Hermeneutics Today," which reflects the direction of my own work. In an age of increased specialization, it is easy to overlook just how close hermeneutic theory is to phenomenology. This connection to the phenomenological tradition should be evident in regard to the two great philosophers in contemporary hermeneutic theory, Paul Ricoeur and Hans-Georg Gadamer. Paul Ricoeur's early work is deeply rooted in the work of Husserl, and his subsequent work, which made him a distinguished philosopher in his own right, had the effect of expanding the scope of phenomenological research. Hans-Georg Gadamer's early work occurs under the tutelage of Martin Heidegger, but he was also influenced by the work of both Husserl, Scheler and others, who took issue with the neo-Kantianism of the day. His own turn to classical studies in these early years was in part a response to neo-Kantianism (as well as from

his own uncertainty of a career in philosophy in the wake of Heidegger's success). When Gadamer publishes *Truth and Method* much later in his career, he considers this work to be a work in phenomenology.

The articles in this issue are all authored by distinguished scholars who are making an impact in research in contemporary hermeneutics. In one or another they have all made and are continuing to make a contribution to the next generation of research in hermeneutics. John Caputo's work is notable in this regard for the way in which he continues to take up the project of a "radical hermeneutics." As we see in other articles as well, this next generation of research continues to extend the scope of hermeneutics beyond its initial framework. The concluding article by Dennis Schmidt makes a fitting tribute to the person of Gadamer who considered hermeneutics to be concerned with all that is reasonable, not unlike Socrates.