The Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center

**History and Mission**

The Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center was founded in 1980 under the direction of Amedeo Giorgi, Ph.D. as an expression of the phenomenological orientations of Duquesne University's graduate programs in philosophy and psychology. Mr. Simon Silverman, the late president of the Humanities Press, was the Center's first major benefactor and proudly bears his name. The goal of the Center is to promote and facilitate original phenomenological research and thereby add to the corpus of literature in all disciplines, with continental philosophy and psychology as a human science as fields of particular emphasis.

**Programs and Publications**

Partnering with stakeholder academic departments of Duquesne University’s McAuley College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts, the Center serves as a campus hub for numerous intellectual activities which complement graduate programs in philosophy, psychology, and communication and rhetorical studies.

Internationally, the Center is known for its annual sponsorship of a spring symposium, a fall lecture/conference and the André Schuwer memorial lecture series at the yearly conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP). Recent programs include: The Phenomenology of Karel Wojtyla (John Paul II) (Fall, 2006) and Walter Bognar’s Schuwer Lecture “On Giorgio Agamben’s Naked Life: The State of Exception and the Law of the Sovereign” at SPEP 2006. The diversity of these topics shows well the Center’s efforts to advance phenomenological applications with breadth and depth.

The Center also hosts gatherings of learned societies, including the forthcoming 3rd annual meeting of the International Association for the Study of Environment, Space, and Place (April 27-29, 2007) as well as the 3rd annual Alumni/a Conference of Duquesne University’s Psychology Department.


**Resources**

The collections of the Center form part of the Special Collections at Duquesne University’s Gumberg Library. Located in an attractive setting, the Center houses the personal libraries and papers of renowned phenomenologists, including Erwin Straus, Aron Gurwitsch and Stephan Strasser. Also available for consultation are the Moser transcripts of Heidegger’s Marburg lectures, E.J.J. Buytendijk’s “Pensée Repensées” and Husserl’s unpublished transcribed papers, as the Center is an official branch of the Husserl-Archives (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven).

Many thanks to the following individuals who provided the photos used in the cover art: Gadamer photo, courtesy of Etsuro Makita; Sartre photo, courtesy of Vivian K. Berghahn, Sartre Studies International; Fromm photo, courtesy of Rainer Funk, The Literary Estate of Erich Fromm; Scheler photo, courtesy of Manfred Frings.
Cristina Lafont, Ph.D., is professor of philosophy at Northwestern University. She received the Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Frankfurt in 1992 and did her Habilitation there in 2000. Lafont has also been a visiting professor at Universidad Carlos III (Madrid) and the University of Mexico as well as researcher at the Institute of Philosophy, part of the Spanish Council for Scientific Research. Among other achievements, she has attended numerous international conferences throughout the world has taken her to Bogotá, London and Prague, to name a few destinations. The associate editor of Inaugur and Afgan, she also serves as consulting editor for Cambridge University Press and for the journals Philosophy and Social Criticism and Graduate Faculty Philosophy. Lafont’s specializations in hermeneutics, critical theory, phenomenology and philosophy of language have led to numerous publications. Aside from articles and book chapters, she has authored book length studies which include Hegedüs Sprache und Welterschließung: Zur Linguistischen Wende der Hermeneutik Heideggers (1990); later works of Paul Ricoeur (1996) and for the journals Handbook of Critical Theory, Ethics and Law (Copenhagen) and was on the executive committee for the journal Critical Theory. Other works include the multi-volume Handbook of Critical Theory, Aesthetics, Classic and Contemporary Readings (with R. Kearney, 2001), to La Razón Como Lenguaje (with P. Kemp, 1989) and The Synthetic Apriori" in Hegedüs Sprache and Transcendental Philosophy (J. Malpas and S. Crowell, Eds.). Lafont is a native speaker of Spanish and fluent in German.

David Rasmussen, Ph.D., is professor of philosophy at University of Pittsburgh. He received the Ph.D. from University of Chicago in 1966. He has been a visiting professor at various institutions of higher learning in the U.S. and Germany, where he began his career as a Fullbright advanced research fellow (Munich, Frankfurt) and a Fullbright German studies fellow (Bonn). Rasmussen serves as editor of Philosophical and Social Criticism and journal he founded in 1972. He is also the founder of two other journals, Human Studies, for which he continues to serve as associate editor, and Philosophia Quaestiones Publicae. Actively involved in committee work, Rasmussen serves on the board for the Center for Ethics and Law (Copenhagen); and was on the executive committee of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (1994-57). His areas of expertise include continental philosophy, hermeneutic phenomenology and critical theory. Recent edited books include both volumes of Critical Theory (co-edited with J. Swindal, 2003) as well as the forthcoming multi-volume title from Sage’s Masters of Sociological Theory Series, Jürgen Habermas (co-edited with J. Swindal), which will provide the first systematic assessment of the key theorist of the later Frankfurt School. Other edited books are Handbook of Critical Theory (1996) and Continental Aesthetics: Classic and Contemporary Readings (with K. Kearney, 2001), and for the journals Handbook of Critical Theory, Aesthetics, Classic and Contemporary Readings (with R. Kearney, 2001), to name a few. Rasmussen has also authored several books, including The Final Foucault (with J. Bernauer, 1988), The Narrative Path: The Later Works of Paul Ricoeur (with P. Kemp, 1989) and Reading Habermas (1996). Many of Rasmussen’s works have been translated into Japanese, French and Italian.

Ronald Zuidervaart, Ph.D., is professor of philosophy at the Institute of Christian Studies and an associate member of the graduate faculty in the philosophy department at the University of Toronto. He earned the Ph.D. in philosophy from Free University (Amsterdam) in 1981. For the past two decades his scholarship has been recognized through the receipt of several awards, including fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Administrative appointments have included dean of arts and senate chair at the Institute of Christian Studies as well as board president and capital campaign co-chair at the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts. Zuidervaart specializes in continental philosophy, cultural theory, aesthetics and social philosophy. His book length studies include Artistic Truth, Aesthetics, Discourse, and Imaginative Disclosure (2004), which received an award for excellence from Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy and Aesthetics: Artistic Theory. The Redemption of Illusion (1993). He has also authored numerous journal articles and co-edited several books, including The Arts, Community, and Cultural Democracy (with H. Luttikhuizen, 2000) and The Subjectivity of Subjectivity: Essays in Adorno’s Aesthetic Theory (with T. Huhn, 1997). Among Zuidervaart’s forthcoming publications are Social Philosophy After Adorno, Art in Public: Power, Economics and a Democratic Structure; “Truth and Authenticity: Heidegger and Adorno’s Reversal,” in Adorno and Heidegger: Philosophical Questions, I. Macdonald and K. Ziarek, Eds.; Aside from his graduate teaching and advising, he currently offers strategic planning consultations to non-profit organizations.