



Central and East European
Society for Phenomenology



Institute of Philosophy, Slovak Academy of Sciences, v.v.i.
Department of Philosophy, Trnava University
Department of Philosophy and Applied Philosophy, UCM
and the Central and East European Society for Phenomenology

announce a Call for Papers for

The 9th Annual Conference
of the Central and East European Society for Phenomenology

The Many Worlds of Phenomenology

Umwelt – Mitwelt – Lebenswelt

September 4 – 6, 2024
Trnava, Slovakia

The concept of "world" as life-world and environment in which the human being exists belongs to the key concepts of phenomenology and is present throughout the entire oeuvre of Edmund Husserl. Its significance is also emphasized and culminates in the development of the life-world as a world of our life in his later texts, mainly in the *Krisis*. The concept of world also appears in phenomenology in connection with the criticism of scientific conceptions which consider objectivity, reality, and nature in the naturalistic sense. There were predecessors for the phenomenological concept of world: we encounter the notion of "*Umwelt*" already in works of Jakob von Uexküll, who opened new possibilities of investigation in the field of philosophy of biology, philosophical anthropology, phenomenology, and contemporary biosemiotics; Richard Avenarius, with his development of the concept of natural world, is another predecessor. After Husserl, the concept of world is subsequently developed in independent works by Martin Heidegger, Jan Patočka, Eugen Fink, Ludwig Landgrebe, Alfred Schütz and others. Many of Husserl's followers were especially concerned with ontological questions, questions of regional ontologies, and questions of reality.

The topic of being-in-the-world and worldliness (*Weltlichkeit*) is especially important in the earlier period of Heidegger's philosophy, while in the later period the relation between man and world is conceived as fourfold (*Geviert*). The concept of world is key in the thinking of Jan Patočka as well, referring to the overall horizon of sense which is exceptionally disclosed as withdrawing through problematicity, and also playing a special role in his understanding of modernity, care of the soul, movements of existence, phenomenology of corporeality. Already beginning with the works of Maurice Merleau-Ponty, phenomenology has been concerned with political worlds as well, this thread being continued, for instance, by Klaus Held. Phenomenological investigation leads us to further approaches of the world as both home world and alien world, and of the related phenomena of home, of the close and the distant, of the unknown, of the limit. At the same time, phenomenology is confronted with new challenges concerning the investigation of the nature and environment, which has led many researchers to focus on eco-phenomenology. Using the life-world as a leading clue of phenomenological investigation opens a new field of phenomena, of diversity of human experience and action, such as art worlds, scientific worlds, religious worlds, political worlds, cultural worlds, historical worlds, and others, all of which offer new possibilities of return to the one world in its plurality.

By envisioning several fields of research, this conference aims to discuss, for instance, how the world is connected with the investigation of space, perception and horizon; how it becomes significant for experience, subjectivity and corporeality. In our everyday existence we are present in the world, we dwell in it, we are incorporated in the world, we live there with other people; it is a space for our creative activities, for what we can do (*Ich kann*), for scientific investigations. Thus, goal of the conference is to explore the complexity of the concept of world in phenomenology, seen from multiple perspectives, not only in the various conceptions within the phenomenological tradition, but also in the current research. We invite the participants to discuss the meaning and the new applications of the concept of world stemming from phenomenological philosophy.

The contributions can, for example, focus on following themes

- *Umwelt* in the works of Jakob von Uexküll, and other understandings of the concept of *Umwelt*
- Phenomenological analysis of the concepts of space, horizon, *Umgebung*
- Natural world, Life-world in Edmund Husserl's phenomenology
- The development of the concept of world in the works of Jan Patočka, Eugen Fink, Ludwig Landgrebe, Max Scheler, Heinrich Rombach, and other phenomenologists
- Being-in-the-world and the concept of world in the philosophy of Martin Heidegger
- Maurice Merleau-Ponty's world of perception, and the approach to the world in Marc Richir
- Home world and alien world
- New realism
- Environment, nature, eco-phenomenology
- Landscape, phenomenology of geography
- Phenomenology of the world, space and landscape in art and aesthetics

Language

The conference will be held in English

Deadline for submissions

April 15, 2024

Notifications of acceptance

May 15, 2024

E-mail

ceespconference2024@gmail.com (please state "CEESP 2024 conference proposal" in the e-mail heading)

Registration fee

70 EUR

Submission types

- *Individual papers*: Please submit an anonymized abstract of the proposed contribution (max. 300 words) and a cover letter with affiliation and contact information. A regular time slot is approx. 40 minutes (30 min for presentation + 10 min for discussion).
- *Thematic panels*: The proposal should consist of abstracts for 3 papers as part of one panel (max. 300 words per abstract) as well as a separate cover letter with the affiliations of the panelists and contact information. The panelists will have approximately 120 minutes in total for the discussion of the proposed topic.

Organizing committee

Jaroslava Vydrová, Jana Tomašovičová, Róbert Karul, Michal Lipták, Jozef Majerník, and Michal Zvarík