

PREFACE

Husserl regarded *Logical Investigations* (1900-1901) as his 'breakthrough' to phenomenology, and it stands out not only as one of Husserl's most important works, but also as a key text in 20. Century philosophy. The work had a tremendous influence on the subsequent development of phenomenology, and it also left its mark on disciplines such as linguistics, comparative literature, psychology, cognitive science, and mathematics. By predating the split between 'analytical philosophy' and 'continental philosophy', *Logical Investigations* remains of particular interest to those concerned with the possibility of a rapprochement between the two traditions.

One of the most striking features of *Logical Investigations* is its incredible richness. It is a work that is literally brimming over with new, fresh, and in many cases, revolutionary ideas. Not only does it contain Husserl's first treatment of a whole range of phenomenological key-concepts, it also contains some quite devastating criticisms of a number of traditional views. The following are some of the most important analyses found in the *Logical Investigations*:

- A refutation of psychologism
- A defence of the irreducibility of ideality
- A sketch of a general 'theory of theories'
- An outline of the process of eidetic variation
- A presentation of the program of descriptive phenomenology
- A rejection of the mental-image theory of meaning
- A criticism of nominalism and empiricist theories of abstraction
- The outline of a general mereology
- A new interpretation of the synthetic a priori
- The distinction between material (or regional) and formal ontology
- A theory of pure grammar
- The introduction of the concept of foundation
- A revolutionary theory of intentionality
- A criticism of representationalism
- A distinction and analysis of different modes of givenness
- An introduction and analysis of notions like 'adumbrational givenness' and 'bodily presence'
- A description of the process of constitution
- An introduction of the concept of categorial intuition
- A theory of truth and justification based on the notion of intentional fulfilment and evidence
- A distinction between synthetic and ideative acts

After its publication, *Logical Investigations* quickly gained in reputation, and received positive reviews and mention by thinkers such as Mach, Schuppe, Natorp, Stumpf, Dilthey, Wundt, and Lipps. As to its *Wirkungsgeschichte*, its most obvious impact was of course to be found in the subsequent development of phenomenology, be it in the

“eidetic” and “realistic” phenomenology of the Münchener phenomenologists and of Husserl’s Göttingen students (Lipps, Daubert, Reinach, Geiger, Stein etc.), or in Husserl’s own development of a transcendental phenomenology. But even for post-Husserlian phenomenologists *Logical Investigations* remained a work of crucial inspiration and importance, as is testified by, e.g., Heidegger’s *Prolegomena zur Geschichte des Zeitbegriffs* (1925) and his *Zur Sache des Denkens* (1969), Sartre’s *La transcendance de l’ego* (1936), and Derrida’s *La voix et le phénomène* (1967). This in some sense ‘official’ line of influence leading from the fountain of the *Logical Investigations* to the many later works of Husserl, to the works of his personal students, and to the works of the post-Husserlian phenomenologists is relatively well known and well documented, but in fact the influence of *Logical Investigations* reaches much further. Another legacy is to be found in linguistics, primarily via Roman Jakobson who very early on read Gustav Spet’s Russian translation of the *Logical Investigations*. Even though Jakobson did not himself conceal this inspiration, for a long time it passed largely unnoticed that the very founder of linguistic structuralism imported crucial parts of his conceptual apparatus from the *Logical Investigations*, especially from the First, Third, and Fourth Investigations. Jakobson used, among other things, the idea of foundation in his phonology (the “distinctive feature” as a moment of the phoneme). From Jakobson, this inspiration passed—often unnoticed or via inscrutable connections—into mainstream linguistics and semiotics; thus it is striking to see Husserl’s three basic dependency relations between parts surface in exactly identical form in Louis Hjelmslev’s *Prolegomena* of 1943. The Third and Fourth Investigations also inspired and influenced the Polish logicians—in particular Lesniewski’s idea of a formal mereology, which was initially formed in order to dismantle Russell’s paradox, and Ajdukiewicz’s idea of categorial grammar, defining word classes by dependency relations. Through Roman Ingarden (*Das literarische Kunstwerk* from 1931), the idea of describing the structure of the intentional act by means of a series of interrelated moments proved highly influential in phenomenological theory of literature and, later on, in reader-oriented criticism (Jauss, Iser, Eco). The same parts of the work also influenced Gestalt psychology through the main philosophical figure in the Berlin School, Max Wertheimer. As for the flourishing Cognitive Science such debts are all over the places, though often tacitly present in second or third hand forms.

There is plenty of reason to immerse oneself in a close reading of the *Logical Investigations*. This volume celebrates and commemorates its centenary by subjecting the work to a comprehensive critical analysis. It contains new contributions by leading scholars addressing some of the most central analyses to be found in the *Logical Investigations*.

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