



**The Polish Phenomenological Association
in cooperation with
the Polish Academy of Sciences**

invites to the seminar on the „Perspective of Contemporary Phenomenology”
with **George Heffernan** on:

*Husserl's Phenomenology of Existence
and the Problem of Meaning in Human Life*

February 23 (Tuesday), 2016 at 4:00 pm

Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences,
Staszic Palace, Nowy Świat 72, room 154.

The meeting will be held in English.

ABSTRACT: It is often supposed that, unlike later thinkers who are usually regarded as existential phenomenologists, for example, Heidegger and Sartre, Husserl posited a fundamental opposition between transcendental phenomenology and existential philosophy. On the other hand, texts recently published in *Husserliana* XLII, *Grenzprobleme der Phänomenologie* (2014), suggest that Husserl was not opposed but rather open to a certain kind of philosophy of existence. Addressing this apparent incongruity, the present paper provides an introduction to the problem of the relationship between phenomenology and philosophy of existence in the late 1920s and early 1930s, takes a new look at the break between Husserl and Heidegger in the 1920s, offers a reinterpretation of the tension between Husserl's transcendental phenomenology and his philosophy of existence in the 1930s, analyzes selected exemplary aspects of Husserl's phenomenology of existence in texts of *Husserliana* XLII, and provides a conclusion that clarifies the historical development from transcendental phenomenology to existential phenomenology after Husserl. Thus the paper examines the neglected aspects of Husserl's approach to the problem of meaning in human life and indicates that his philosophy includes a phenomenology of existence.

George Heffernan (Philosophy Department, Merrimack College, North Andover, Massachusetts) received his B.A. and M.A. from The Catholic University of America and his Ph.D. from the University of Cologne. He specializes in phenomenology, hermeneutics, and existentialism. He has published several books, including *Isagoge in die phänomenologische Apophantik* (Phaenomenologica 107), and many articles in journals, including *Husserl Studies*, *The New Yearbook for Phenomenology*, and *Analecta Husserliana*. He has presented numerous papers at conferences, including the World Congress of Philosophy, the International Husserl Circle, and the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. He has received grants from the Basselin Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is working on a book, *Phenomenology of Evidence*, and completing an edition of Augustine's *Against the Academicians*.

The meeting is organized as a part of the seminar of the Polish Phenomenological Association on the "Perspectives of Contemporary Phenomenology." The main aim of the seminar is presentation of phenomenological researches in contemporary philosophy. The organizers want not only to reread classical phenomenological texts, but also and foremost to present a possible contribution of phenomenology to contemporary philosophy. The organizers suggest to understand phenomenology mainly as a method, and by doing this they encourage to rethink contemporary practical applications of phenomenology to other sciences. For this reason, the organizers also want to cross narrow limits of academic circles, and invite practitioners, e.g., medical doctors, psychologists, anthropologists, and culture experts. So, the seminar is open for different circles, as well as for researches done in different branches of philosophy and sciences.

Organizers: **Marcin Moskalewicz** (Poznan University of Medical Sciences),
Witold Płotka (University of Gdańsk), **Marek Pokropski** (Warsaw University),
Wojciech Starzyński (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN))