

Special Issue

Experience and Non-Objects: Towards a Phenomenology of Indiscernibility

Message from the Guest Editors

We discuss relationships between the phenomenology of ordinary object-based everyday experience and interesting, often religious experiences that create a possibility for judgment of the invisible.

True to Husserl's view of metaphysics as the future task of phenomenology and drawing on both phenomenological and post-phenomenological perspectives, this Special Issue will provide a perspective on how we can imagine the idea of reality containing both objects and non-objects, without reducing one to the other. Finally, we will also discuss how and if the concept of unified reality, which is theistic in origin, participates in the objectless intuitions.

Our area of interest is related to the question of if and how the ego can "appresent" non-objects. Disruptions of the everyday during meditation or the religious-spiritual practices of embodied inwardness (e.g., in Tantra, Vedanta, the Prayer of the Heart, or other systems of religious experience) give us repetitive, predictable experiences, but what presents itself in these experiences? Ultimately, what is the sphere of validity for the theory of objects in confrontation with the invisible or indiscernible?

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Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community – disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

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