



The Foundation of Phenomenology: Edmund Husserl and the Quest for a Rigorous Science of Philosophy

By Marvin Farber

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In this widely hailed and long out of print classic of twentieth century philosophic commentary, Professor Farber explains the origin, development, and function of phenomenology with a view towards its significance for philosophy in general.

The book offers a general account of Husserl and the background of his philosophy. The early chapters are devoted to his mathematical-philosophical and psychological studies. The refutation of psychologism is present in detail, together with the critical reaction to it. The development of his logical theories in the light of contemporary literature at the close of the 19th century is next considered. The main content of the six *Logical Investigations* follows, which contribute to the phenomenological elucidation of experience and knowledge. The phenomenological philosophy of logic as developed in Husserl's later writings is then introduced, followed by a discussion of the phenomenological method and its proper function. Farber makes clear his preference for phenomenology as a purely descriptive method and his opposition to have it serve as a last stronghold of metaphysics.

Indispensable as groundwork for descriptive philosophical study, this book will deeply interest not only serious students of philosophy and psychology, but also those who are concerned with the philosophical aspects of mathematics, social and natural sciences, law and psychiatry.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Once a vague, far-off, not to say awesome rumor, the creation known as Phenomenology has now settled in this country and come to add its particular... decorative effects to a languishing philosophical scene... The present work, published under the auspices of the International Phenomenological Society, is extremely painstaking, and it is critical as well as admiring, though more admiring than critical... Included in the volume, constituting indeed its major portion, is Professor Farber’s English rendering of the main content of Husserl’s best known work, the *Logische Untersuchungen*.”

—Leo Roberts, *Isis*

“For a generation, philosophical scholarship in Germany was influenced by Husserl in a measure hardly equaled by any of his contemporaries. In spite of this, however, and in spite of at least a handful of scholars in other lands who had more than a passing acquaintance with his work, he has been the subject of a remarkably small number of truly helpful full-length studies. Professor Farber has put us in his debt by adding to that number.”

—James Street Fulton, *The Philosophical Review*

“This book offers a detailed historical account of the development of Husserl’s philosophy from his early logical psychologism, through simple descriptive phenomenology, to his final transcendental phenomenology, and includes the main content of the *Logische Untersuchungen* “in essential fulfillment of a promise made to Husserl to render that work in English.” The author is himself an advocate of “a strict interpretation of phenomenology as a descriptive philosophy” and argues against the acceptability of Husserl’s later transcendental idealism.”

—Alonzo Church, *The Journal of Symbolic Logic*

“Professor Farber’s work may well be characterized as a most useful and helpful introduction to phenomenological philosophy... Farber has rendered an important service to the phenomenological movement and its future.”

—Aron Gurwitsch, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*

“After many years of neglect the philosophy of Husserl appears to be coming into its own in this country, and to have initiated a new movement... The public can be especially grateful for... [Farber’s] translations from the *Investigations*, and for his careful account of Husserl’s early studies and development.”

—V. J. McGill, *The Journal of Philosophy*

About the Author

Marvin Farber (1901-1980) taught at the University of Buffalo from 1927-1974. During that time he founded and was the editor of *Philosophical and Phenomenological Research*. In the early 1920’s he received his doctorate at Harvard University and he studied in Germany under Edmund Husserl. He is the

author of three major works on phenomenology, *Phenomenology as a Method, Naturalism and Subjectivism* and this volume.

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