MEDARD BOSS Dozentur · WS 2026/27

VORTRAG UND WORKSHOP

The Dialectics of Clinical Phenomenology: Promise, Limits, and the Space Between



Dr. Francesca Brencio
Institute for Mental Health
School of Psychology
University of Birmingham (UK)
Director of the PhenoLab

Vortrag

19. November 2026 | 18:30-20:00 Uhr

NIG - Neues Institutsgebäude
Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien · Hörsaal 3D
Eintritt frei · Anmeldung nicht erforderlich

Workshop

20. November 2026 | 09:00-13:00 Uhr

NIG - Neues Institutsgebäude
Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien · Hörsaal 3D
Kostenlos · Anmeldung: info@daseinsanalyse.at

Im Workshop werden die Themen des Vortrags vertieft und gemeinsam diskutiert.

ABSTRACT

Phenomenology is enjoying a renewed presence in psychiatry. This revival is driven by a growing recognition that the dominant neuroscientific model, built on reification, reductionism and the isolation of the patient from their world, cannot account for the lived reality of mental health conditions. Yet a dilemma persists: the limits of this paradigm are widely acknowledged, but clinical practice remains largely bound to it. This lecture asks what phenomenology can realistically offer, and what it has so far failed to deliver.

The lecture begins with the promise of phenomenology. It can shift attention from "things" located in the brain to variations of subjective and intersubjective structures, and it places the person, rather than the symptom, at the centre of care. The lecture then turns to its limits, which are twofold. Epistemologically, phenomenology has often operated within Kraepelinian diagnostic categories, reducing it to a supplementary layer of the very system it sought to challenge.

Politically, as Franco Basaglia came to recognise, it has remained largely trapped in an individualistic and at times disembodied framework, one that has left, and still leaves, the power relations embedded in psychiatric practice untouched.

In response, the lecture proposes a dialectical model of phenomenology, in which the space *between*, or *betweenness*, offers a way beyond both Cartesian dualism and the false choice between neurobiological reductionism and phenomenological idealism. It is also where the political dimension of clinical practice comes into view. The encounter between clinician and patient is never neutral ground, because diagnosis is also shaped by social values that may influence which human differences become medicalised. Attending to the space between therefore means recognising the clinical encounter as a site where norms of conformity can be either reproduced or called into question.

Infos und Anmeldung unter:
www.daseinsanalyse.at/veranstaltungen

da Daseinsanalytisches Institut für Psychotherapie, Psychosomatik und Grundlagenforschung Österreich

universität wien
Institut für Philosophie

FORSCHUNGSKREIS PHÄNOMENOLOGIE

ÖDAI · in Kooperation mit dem Forschungskreis Phänomenologie des Instituts für Philosophie der Universität Wien