

# Contributions To Phenomenology

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Volume 95

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The series is published in cooperation with The Center for Advanced Research in Phenomenology.

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Thomas Hünefeldt • Annika Schlitte  
Editors

# Situatedness and Place

Multidisciplinary Perspectives  
on the Spatio-temporal Contingency  
of Human Life

 Springer

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ISSN 0923-9545

ISSN 2215-1915 (electronic)

Contributions To Phenomenology

ISBN 978-3-319-92936-1

ISBN 978-3-319-92937-8 (eBook)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-92937-8>

Library of Congress Control Number: 2018954740

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The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

# Preface

This volume assembles researches that have been presented in the context of a series of events organized by the interdisciplinary “Graduate Research Training Group ‘Philosophy of Place’” (Graduiertenkolleg “Philosophie des Ortes”) at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt. In particular, it contains works by international guests invited to a lecture series entitled “Situated Cognition and the Philosophy of Place,” which took place in Eichstätt in spring 2015, or to a symposium with the same title, which took place in the context of the “6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Spatial Cognition: Space and Situated Cognition (ICSC 2015)” in Rome. Both the lecture series and the symposium were aimed at exploring the possibilities and conditions of an interdisciplinary dialogue between two heterogeneous research movements which both emphasize the spatiotemporal contingency of human life and which both are influenced and inspired by the phenomenological tradition, but which nevertheless largely ignore or even disregard each other: the “situated cognition” movement in pedagogy, psychology, and the cognitive sciences, on the one hand, and the thought on “place” in philosophy and the social and cultural sciences, on the other.

Given this origin, the contributions to this volume are quite heterogeneous both in their methods and in their topics. They do not pretend to represent the whole breadth of the research tradition of which they are part, but present research in progress on important topics within that tradition, with an either critical or empathetic eye on motives belonging to the respective other research tradition. The first three contributions, by Edward Casey, Jeff Malpas, and David Seamon, address fundamental questions of a philosophy of place. They suggest that contemporary thought on place is far from being homogeneous, in particular as regards the role attributed to phenomenology. The following three contributions, by Shaun Gallagher, William Clancey, and Thomas Hünefeldt, focus in rather different ways on the situatedness of mental processes. Next, the contributions by Annika Schlitte and Tsutomu Ben Yagi analyze the work of two important twentieth century philosophers: Helmuth Plessner and Hans-Georg Gadamer, with respect to questions concerning situatedness and place. Last but not least, the contributions by Tobias Holischka and Dylan

Trigg deal with particular topics closely related to situatedness and place: agoraphobia and virtual reality.

We wish to thank all those who have rendered possible this volume and the context in which it originated. First, we wish of course to thank the contributors to this volume: it has been a great honor that they accepted our invitation, and a great pleasure to interact with them. Furthermore, we thank the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt and the “Cassianeum Stiftung,” which generously sponsored the “Graduate Research Training Group ‘Philosophy of Place’” and the events organized in its context. Finally, our special thanks go to Daniel Romić at the Research Office of the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, who empathically supported our work throughout the entire process.

Rome, Italy  
Mainz, Germany

Thomas Hünefeldt  
Annika Schlitte

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**Jeff Malpas** is Distinguished Professor at the University of Tasmania in Hobart. He is the editor of *The Intelligence of Place* (Bloomsbury, 2015), and his *Place and Experience* (Cambridge, 1999) is soon to be republished in a new expanded edition by Routledge. He has also written extensively on many other topics in the history of philosophy, phenomenology, hermeneutics, philosophy of language, ethics, and political philosophy.

**Annika Schlitte** is Junior Professor for philosophy with a special focus on the relation to the social and cultural sciences at Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz. She wrote her dissertation on Georg Simmel’s *Philosophy of Money (Die Macht des Geldes und die Symbolik der Kultur,*” Fink, 2012) and was speaker of the Interdisciplinary Research Academy “Philosophy of Place” at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt. Her research interests include philosophy of culture, phenomenology, and hermeneutics.

**David Seamon** is a Professor of Architecture at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas, USA. Trained in geography and environment-behavior research, he is interested in a phenomenological approach to place, architecture, and environmental design as place making. His most recent book is *Life Takes Place: Phenomenology, Lifeworlds, and Place Making* (Routledge, 2018). He edits the *Environmental and Architectural Phenomenology Newsletter*, which in 2014 celebrated 25 years of publication.

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