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Research Building Low Block 303, Hong Kong Shue Yan University

IIDS Seminar Series Phenomenology: A multidisciplinary Dialogue

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Seminar II: The Phenomenological & Hermeneutic Human and Social Sciences

By

Prof. Simon Glynn

Simon Glynn is Professor of Philosophy at Florida Atlantic University. His research interests are in Contemporary Continental Epistemology (from Phenomenology and Hermeneutics, to Structuralism, and Post-structural Deconstruction) and its application to the natural, human and social sciences, cultural analysis and interpretation, as well as in political and social philosophy and the philosophy of technology. Prof. Glynn has been contributing editor of a number of books including *European Philosophy and the Human and Social Sciences (1986)*, *Sartre: An Investigation of Some Major Themes (1987)*, and contributing co-editor of *"Continental and Postmodern Perspectives in the Philosophy of Science (1995)*. Prof. Glynn is currently working on a project titled "Objectivity and Alienation, applying Contemporary Continental Epistemology to the methodology of the sciences."

Abstract of the Presentation

Following the success of Galileo's, Newton's and Bacon's Objective Epistemologies, Quantitative Methods and Causal Explanations as applied to the Natural or Physical Sciences, many counseled that the Human and Social Sciences should follow suit. However against this Reductionist view it may be argued that the Natural Sciences' Epistemologies, Methods and Explanations, developed for the study of Physical Objects, and their Causal Actions and Interactions are singularly inappropriate to the study of Human Subjects, their Subjective Experiences of Qualitative Significant Feelings, Meaning and Purpose, and their Social Relations, Interactions and seemingly Freely Chosen Actions. Indeed these, it may be argued, can only be adequately Understood, Explained and Predicted when seen in terms of the subjectively given Values, Attitudes, Beliefs, Purposes and Goals of the Individuals and Groups involved. And further, that such Human and Social Experience and Behavior can only be Understood Hermeneutically, which is to say in terms of the context or contexts in which it arises.

Furthermore, so far from being “Objective” *Observers*, enjoying some transcendental or transcendent perspective, the Human and Social Scientists themselves, like those they study, socially-culturally situated *Participants* in the “*Life-Worlds*” (*Lebenswelt*) they inhabit.

Thus the seminar will explore and explicate this debate, and defend the Phenomenological and Hermeneutic approach to the Human and Social Sciences against Objectivistic Reductionism.

Language: English

Registration: Onsite Registration

All are welcome