

## Structures of Situational Experience.

### Film Studies at the Crossroads between Phenomenology and Critical Theory

Christian Ferencz-Flatz

#### Summary

The habilitation thesis begins with a detailed description of my research activities in the field of film studies and phenomenology, including both the research projects I have conducted and been involved in, as well as the main publications that resulted from those projects. Then, I present some elements of my didactic activities, and finally I draw some of the perspectives ahead for the future development of my academic career.

The roots of my entire research activity resides in my doctoral thesis, completed in 2008 at the University of Bucharest with the title: *Situation and Relevance. The Deconstruction of the Concept of Value in Martin Heidegger*. It had as its pretext a topic of high interest for the history of philosophy, namely Heidegger's confrontation, in his early lectures, with the theory of value which was central in the neokantian philosophy of his time. Thus, my work first focused on a topic of some exegetic relevance, namely the conception of "meaningfulness" developed in those early lectures and later on also picked up in *Being and Time*, a conception Heidegger opposes to the concept of value. This inquiry however finds its point of interest in a topic of phenomenological or systematic concern, namely the question of "situation". The analysis of this topic, only marginally sketched out by Heidegger, constitutes the most significant part of my dissertation. Its systematic interest developed from the methodological principle of phenomenology, that of analysing phenomena on ground of the lived experience of their immediate donation, in noting that - if every lived experience is at base a lived situation - situationality represents an elementary condition of phenomenality in general, and thus an unavoidable topic of interest for phenomenology. The dissertation was published in 2009 at the Humanitas publishing house under the title: *Obişnuit și neobişnuit în viața de zi cu zi: Fenomenologia situației și critica conceptului de valoare la Martin Heidegger*. The question of situationality has ever since remained the main guiding thread of my research. Out of it gradually evolved three main axes of my research, which were already implied in it:

the problem of a phenomenology of film centered on the idea of the cinematographic situation, the question of intersubjectivity understood as the articulation of a multiplicity of subjective perspectives in a common context, and the problem of historicity, as a contrast reference for any situational determination. Each one of these topics of research was at the center of some of my individual or collective, national or international research projects, leading to new questions and problems, which I always tried to connect up in a vast network of researches leading to substantial results.

In brief, my research activity comprises the implementation of four individual research projects, among which I mention the *New Europe College* fellowship in Bucharest, the KAAD fellowship at the Husserl Archives in Köln, the IRH-ICUB fellowship, as well as the prestigious fellowship for senior researchers offered by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Further on, I have headed two research teams in TE projects funded by UEFISCDI and I have participated as a member in two further research projects funded by UEFISCDI, I have won a translation fellowship at the IWM in Vienna as well as several other translation grants. Among the results of these research projects I mention five monographs, one of which appeared at a scientific publishing house in Germany, and the four others at some of the main publishing houses in the humanities in Romania (Humanitas and Tact). I have coordinated three issues of the journal *Studia Phaenomenologica*, as well as several other journal issues, and I have edited three collective volumes at national publishing houses. Finally, among the publications resulted from my research, one can count over 25 articles which appeared at the most important international journals in the field of philosophy and film studies (Husserl Studies, *Continental Philosophy Review*, *Phänomenologische Forschungen*, NECSUS), many of them being ISI-indexed, as well as over 20 other articles. Among these publications I would also like to mention more than 13 translations of fundamental theoretical works, ranging all the way from Edmund Husserl's major writings, to those of Walter Benjamin, Siegfried Kracauer and Theodor Adorno. In the present habilitation thesis, I will try to show the inner coherence of this vast field of research, by gradually following its main phases and the way they evolved.