

The New Yearbook for Phenomenology and Phenomenological Philosophy XIX

Aim and Scope: *The New Yearbook for Phenomenology and Phenomenological Philosophy* provides an annual international forum for phenomenological research in the spirit of Husserl's groundbreaking work and the extension of this work by such figures as Scheler, Heidegger, Sartre, Levinas, Merleau-Ponty, and Gadamer.

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XIX**

Reinach and Contemporary Philosophy

Edited by
Burt C. Hopkins and John J. Drummond

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Part I

Reinach and contemporary philosophy

1 Guest editors' introduction

Basil Vassilicos and Christopher Erhard

Adolf Reinach (1883–1917) was one of a number of highly talented philosophers to have been involved in phenomenology from its very beginnings. In studying alongside Husserl, it is even told that he thought of Reinach as his most gifted student, one who would continue the project of a *philosophia perennis* whose foundations Husserl had hoped to establish. However, as we well know, things turned out differently in at least three regards. First, after Husserl himself, it was Heidegger, not Reinach, who would become the most conspicuous if not influential historical figure in the buildout of phenomenological philosophy. Second, Reinach did not subscribe to the transcendental and, arguably, idealistic turn that Husserl gave to phenomenology. This was because he thought that the core ideas of phenomenology ought to be researched in a manner independent from, albeit possibly compatible with, the transcendental-constitutive investigation of “pure consciousness.” Third, Reinach’s life was tragically cut short during World War I, with some parts of his work only recently having been published or translated, with others irreparably lost.

In Reinach’s writing, mostly published posthumously, one can find short but brilliant phenomenological analyses of a startlingly comprehensive array of important philosophical notions, animated by a thoroughly realist spirit. Nonetheless, despite its richness, up to now, Reinach’s work still has not received the attention it deserves. While there have been a few peaks in Reinach’s reception,¹ more recently this lack of attention has been glaring particularly when it comes to the systematic examination of fruitful exchange between current debates and Reinachian perspectives. By means of this special issue, we hope to remedy this situation and stimulate interest in the Reinachian oeuvre.

The idea for this special issue goes back to the “Reinach Centennial Conference,” in commemoration of his passing 100 years prior, which took place at Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU) Munich in December 2017. One of its major goals of this conference – the inaugural meeting of the Network for Phenomenological Research – was to cover the different systematic facets and contemporary implications of Reinach’s work.

1 Two of the most important contributions to Reinach scholarship remain the volumes edited by Barry Smith and Kevin Mulligan, respectively: *Parts and Moments: Parts and Moments. Studies in Logic and Formal Ontology* (B. Smith, ed., 1982, Philosophia, Munich) and *Speech Act and Sachverhalt* (K. Mulligan, ed., 1987, Springer, Dordrecht).

4 *Basil Vassilicos and Christopher Erhard*

The papers collected explore the richness of Reinach's short but penetrating philosophical work. Basically, three topics are covered; one group of papers deals with *ontology* broadly construed, covering the ontological status and nature of Reinach's realism (Denis Seron), Reinach's contribution to the contemporary understanding of states of affairs (Guillaume Fréchette), and his ontology of legal objects (Guiseppe Lorini/Olimpia Giuliana Loddo). The second group of papers deals with *social acts and their products*, focusing on the structure of social acts and their nature as social encounters (Francesca De Vecchi, Genki Uemura), *promises and normativity* (Karl Mertens, Michela Summa), and *contracts and exchanges* (Alessandro Salice). A final paper in this issue covers the contemporary concerns in the *philosophy of feelings, emotions and values* from the perspective of Reinach and his interlocutors (Íngrid Vendrell Ferran).

In this way, our contributors, with varying types of emphasis, stress the continuing relevance of Reinach's ideas, and with novel contributions to our understanding of Reinach, they establish vistas for further research in dialogue with contemporary accounts of the respective phenomena.