



Feminist and Critical Phenomenology

Ph.D.-course

Gender Academy, Stockholm University

GV1FEFE (7,5 ECTS)

Study guide, Spring semester 2026



Welcome to the Ph.D.-course *Feminist and Critical Phenomenology* and to the Gender Academy at Stockholm University!

In this study guide you will find information about the course structure and schedule, reading and seminar instructions, course requirements and examination.

Instructor: The course is taught by Lisa Käll, lisa.kall@gender.su.se. If you have any questions about the course or your studies, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Information about plagiarism is provided at the end of this course description. Please make sure you read this information.

Course content

The Ph.D.-course *Feminist and Critical Phenomenology* introduces the field of feminist and critical phenomenology, charting its historical trajectory and recent developments. It addresses central areas and concepts in feminist and critical phenomenology, such as lived embodiment, intercorporeality and intersubjectivity, situated subjectivity, norms and normality, identity and otherness, race, gender, sexuality and sexual difference. It introduces the methodological and conceptual framework of phenomenology and addresses how this has been and is taken up and critically developed in feminist and critical phenomenology. The course will discuss feminist and critical phenomenological work in relation both to the classical phenomenologists it draws on and to current relevant discussions in related fields.

Students are encouraged to explore and develop their own research interests in relation to the main themes of the course.

Learning Outcomes

In order to obtain a passing grade, students must be able to:

- account for, explain, and critically discuss the field of feminist phenomenology and its development in relation to and as part of critical phenomenology more broadly,
- account for, explain, and critically discuss central concepts in feminist and critical phenomenology,
- carry out analyses of concrete phenomena – such as social and political events, film, literature, or scientific findings and results – through the conceptual framework provided by feminist and critical phenomenology,
- communicate the aforementioned capacities in both written and oral form.

Teaching

The course content is conveyed via interactive seminars, which can involve some amount of traditional lecturing but primarily contain discussion and group work. Seminars will be on-campus only and seminar participation is mandatory. If you need to be absent from a seminar, please let me know via email.

You are expected to read the assigned literature prior to class and to come prepared to actively engage with the course material in class. Your participation and contribution to class discussion, both in terms of talking and actively listening, is indispensable for a dynamic collective learning experience. Throughout the course we will deal with material that is philosophically challenging and that can also be experienced as provocative, sensitive and upsetting in different ways. In light of this, please be mindful that the classroom is a space where we are respectful of and generous to each other and where we engage in intellectual and informed discussion and exchange of ideas.



Examination

The course is examined through active participation in the seminars, seminar assignments, and a final paper.

Plagiarism and Cheating

There is zero tolerance of all forms of cheating, plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration at Stockholm University and violations will lead to disciplinary action. As a student, at any level, you are responsible for keeping yourself informed about what is not allowed when you complete your exams. If you are unsure of how to cite your sources properly and avoid plagiarism, please refer to online guides on academic writing. Note that self-plagiarism, i.e. when you reuse your own text without citing the source is considered plagiarism.

You can read more about the University's guidelines regarding plagiarism here:

https://www.su.se/english/education/student-support/your-rights-and-responsibilities?open-collapse-boxes=collapseCollapsible1611240180976_253738.0100000.0,collapseCollapsible1612860032648_529724.0100000.0

Course Schedule

Tuesday, April 7, 10-12

Introduction

Al-Saji, Alia. “Feminist Phenomenology”, *The Routledge Companion to Feminist Philosophy*, eds. Ann Garry, Serene J. Khader and Alison Stone (Routledge 2017), 143-154.

Fisher, Linda. “Feminist Phenomenology”, *Feminist Phenomenology*, eds. Linda Fisher and Lester Embree (Kluwer Academic Publishers 2000), 1-15

Guenther, Lisa. “What is Critical Phenomenology”, *50 Concepts for a Critical Phenomenology*, eds. Gail Weiss, Ann V. Murphy and Gayle Salamon (Northwestern UP 2020), 11-16.

Magrí, Elisa and McQueen, Paddy. *Critical Phenomenology. An Introduction* (Polity Press 2023), Introduction, p 1-11.

*For an introduction to phenomenology more generally, see for example Sokolowski, Robert. *Introduction to Phenomenology* (Cambridge UP 2000).

Monday, April 27, 13-16, Gula villan Ninox

Methodological and conceptual framework

Fielding, Helen A. “A Feminist Phenomenology Manifesto”, *Feminist Phenomenology Futures*, eds. Helen A. Fielding and Dorothea E. Olkowski (Indiana UP 2017), vii-xxii.

Guenther, Lisa. “Six Senses of Critique for Critical Phenomenology”, *Puncta. Journal of Critical Phenomenology* 4:2 (2021), 5-23.

Magrí, Elisa and McQueen, Paddy. *Critical Phenomenology. An Introduction* (Polity Press 2023), chapter 1, p 12-46.

Oksala, Johanna. “What is Feminist Phenomenology? Thinking Birth Philosophically”, *Radical Philosophy* 126, (2004), 16-22.

Oksala, Johanna. "The Method of Critical Phenomenology: Simone de Beauvoir as a Phenomenologist", *European Journal of Philosophy* 31:1 (2023), 137-150.

Ortega, Mariana. "Critical Impurity and the Race for Critical Phenomenology", *Puncta. Journal of Critical Phenomenology* 5:4 (2022), 9-31.

Rodemeyer, Lanei. "A Phenomenological Critique of Critical Phenomenology", *Phenomenology as Critique*, eds. Andreea Smaranda Aldea, David Carr and Sara Heinämaa (Routledge 2022), 95-112.

Salamon, Gayle. "What's Critical about Critical Phenomenology", *Puncta. Journal of Critical Phenomenology* 1:1 (2018), 8-17.

Stoller, Silvia. "What is Feminist Phenomenology? Looking Backward and Into the Future", *Feminist Phenomenology Futures*, eds. Helen A. Fielding & Dorothea E. Olkowski (Indiana UP 2017), 328-354.

Monday, May 4, 13-16, Gula villan Ninox
The body and embodied subjectivity

Al-Saji, Alia. "The Racialization of Muslim Veils: A Philosophical Analysis", *Philosophy and Social Criticism* 36:8 (2010), 870-902.

Chisholm, Dianne. "Climbing like a Girl: An Exemplary Adventure in Feminist Phenomenology", *Hypatia* 23:1 (2008), 9-40.

Fielding, Helen A. "The Habit Body", *50 Concepts for a Critical Phenomenology*, eds. Gail Weiss, Ann V. Murphy and Gayle Salamon (Northwestern UP 2020), 155-160.

Magrí, Elisa and McQueen, Paddy. *Critical Phenomenology. An Introduction* (Polity Press 2023), chapter 2, p 47-82.

McRuer, Robert. "Compulsory Able-Bodiedness", *50 Concepts for a Critical Phenomenology*, eds. Gail Weiss, Ann V. Murphy and Gayle Salamon (Northwestern UP 2020), 61-68.

Ngo, Helen. "Critical Phenomenology and the Banality of White Supremacy", *Philosophy Compass* 17:2 (2022).

Slatman, Jenny. “The *Körper/Leib* Distinction”, *50 Concepts for a Critical Phenomenology*, eds. Gail Weiss, Ann V. Murphy and Gayle Salamon (Northwestern UP 2020), 203-210.

Weiss, Gail. “The Normal, the Natural, and the Normative: A Merleau-Pontian Legacy to Feminist Theory, Critical Race Theory, and Disability Studies”, *Continental Philosophy Review* 48:1 (2015), 77–93.

Yancy, George. “Confiscated Bodies”, *50 Concepts for a Critical Phenomenology*, eds. Gail Weiss, Ann V. Murphy and Gayle Salamon (Northwestern UP 2020), 69-76.

Young, Iris Marion. “Throwing Like a Girl: A Phenomenology of Feminine Body Comportment, Motility and Spatiality”, *Human Studies* 3 (1980), 137-156.
Reprinted in several collections.

Young, Iris Marion. ““Throwing Like a Girl”: Twenty Years Later”, *Body and Flesh: A Philosophical Reader*, ed. Donn Welton (Blackwell 1998), 286-290.

Monday, May 11, 13-16, Gula villan Ninox
The other, intersubjectivity and otherness

Adkins, Amey Victoria. “Black/Feminist Futures: Reading Beauvoir in *Black Skin, White Masks*”, *The South Atlantic Quarterly* 112: 4 (Fall 2013), 697-723.

Beauvoir, Simone de. *The Second Sex*, translated by Constance Borde & Sheila Malovany-Chevallier (Alfred A. Knopf 2009), “Introduction”, 3-17.

Bergoffen, Debra. “Of Women and Slaves”, *Feminist Phenomenology Futures*, eds. Helen A. Fielding and Dorothea E. Olkowski (Indiana UP 2017), 110-124.

Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skin, White Masks*, Transl. Richard Philcox (Grove Press 2008), Chapter 5: “The Lived Experience of the Black Man”, 89-119.

Magrí, Elisa and McQueen, Paddy. *Critical Phenomenology. An Introduction* (Polity Press 2023), chapter 3-5, p 83-187.



Monday, May 18, 13-16, Gula villan Minerva
The world and situatedness in space and time

Ahmed, Sara. "Orientations: Toward a Queer Phenomenology", *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 12:4 (2006), 543-574.

Alcoff, Linda Martín. "Public Self/Lived Subjectivity", *50 Concepts for a Critical Phenomenology*, eds. Gail Weiss, Ann V. Murphy and Gayle Salamon (Northwestern UP 2020), 269-274.

Burke, Megan M. "Gender as Lived Time: Reading *The Second Sex* for a Feminist Phenomenology of Temporality", *Hypatia* 33:1 (2018), 112-127.

Burke, Megan, Ferrari, Martina and Mann, Bonnie. "Toward a Feminist Phenomenology of Temporal Harm", *Signs. Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 48:2 (2023), 269-290.

Lee, Emily S. "Body Movement and Responsibility for a Situation", *Living Alterities: Phenomenology, Embodiment and Race*, ed. Emily S. Lee (SUNY Press 2014), 233-253.

Magrí, Elisa and McQueen, Paddy. *Critical Phenomenology. An Introduction* (Polity Press 2023), chapter 1, p 188-226.

Ortega, Mariana. "'New Mestizas,' 'World'-Travelers,' and 'Dasein': Phenomenology and the Multi-Voiced, Multi-Cultural Self", *Hypatia* 16:3 (2001), 1-29.

Ortega, Mariana. "Hometactics: Self-Mapping, Belonging, and the Home Question", *Living Alterities: Phenomenology, Embodiment and Race*, ed. Emily S. Lee (SUNY Press 2014), 173-188.

Zurn, Perry. "A Critical Phenomenology of Walking", *Puncta. Journal of Critical Phenomenology* 4:1 (2021), 1-18.

Friday, May 29
Paper submission

Assessment and Grading Criteria

Assessment is based on:

1. Active participation in seminars and preparation of a question for discussion. You are expected to read all literature and come prepared for discussion. For each seminar, you should prepare a question for discussion based on the assigned literature. As you formulate your question, make sure you provide sufficient background for your question, clarifying the specific readings and/or arguments in relation to which you ask your question. (1/2-1 page) Upload your question to the assigned folder on Athena no later than the day before class. Please be prepared to share and discuss your question in class.
2. A final paper. The paper should be around 10 pages, times new roman 12 (or equivalent), 1,5 spacing, 2,5 cm margins. You do not need to follow the traditional format of a research paper but are welcome to write in more essayistic form. For the paper you are welcome to explore and develop your own research interests in relation to the main themes of the course. You may also pick a theme/topic/question in the literature that sparked your interest and that you would like to delve into more deeply.