

## ENGLISH SUMMARIES

### **Martin Lindhardt: An Outline of Phenomenology in Anthropology**

This article sheds light on the relevance and potential of phenomenology in anthropological and cultural sociological research. The first part of the article consists of a historical account of important phenomenological thinkers (Husserl, Heidegger, Schutz and Merleau-Ponty) and concepts. This leads me to a discussion of the contributions of phenomenology to anthropological studies of different subjects such as illness, gender, the relation between human beings and nature. I further look at how phenomenological insights have contributed to recent and current epistemological debates. Finally, I introduce the remaining articles of this special volume of *Tidsskriftet Antropologi*.

Keywords: phenomenology, anthropology, sociology, body, consciousness, experience, perception, epistemology

### **Anne Line Dalsgård: Lines in the Night Sky**

This article draws on a study of female sterilization in Northeast Brazil, carried out between 1997-2000 and published in 2004. Reflecting upon her previous work the author argues that literary writing, including assumptions on the never fully comprehensible subjectivity of the Other, may be a phenomenological study in itself and a helpful method in anthropology. Writing forth the subjectivity of one's interlocutor lays bare the associations, which tie together the anthropologist's observations and sensations of the Other's – presumed – inner world. Without such an exposure the anthropologist may naively continue her work, as if no leap into guesswork had taken place. Despite focusing particularly on the anthropological use of the phenomenological approach, the author finds this potential naivety in any anthropological analysis that takes the "native's point of view" into consideration. On the other hand, the risk of being self-centered and irrelevant may be the only alternative. Hence, the conclusion of this article, though differently expressed, is: Better leap with open eyes than stay indifferent to the world.

Keywords: subjectivity, literary writing, motherhood, motivation, phenomenology, method



### **Inge Kryger Pedersen: Listening in Alternative Medicine: A Phenomenological Analysis**

In the era of evidence based medicine, technical skills, standardization and healthcare tested by research are at a premium to help determine the effectiveness of caring and healing practice. However, alternative medicine, which is less rule-bound than official bio-medicine and based on very limited scientific evidence, represents an increasingly popular medical option for many Danes. In this article, which is based on in-depth ethnographic research on three of the most popular forms of session-based alternative medicine in Denmark the phenomenon of listening is highlighted to make this popularity intelligible. Different forms of listening as a phenomenological and intersubjective process are explored: practitioners' listening to their clients, clients' listening to their practitioners as well as to their own body and finally the researcher's listening as a phenomenological analytical practice and strategy. Listening has been a much neglected area compared to the gaze (for example the medical or clinical gaze) in healthcare research. In the scarce literature on listening within healthcare, only few studies have explored patients' perception of listening. Drawing on a concept of listening that distinguishes listening from hearing as a physiological process this article argues in favor of another element of listening, namely the practitioner's involvement that gives the client a sensation of being understood (or listened to). The true listener uses all the senses and listening is more than conversation. Users of alternative treatments benefit when practitioners in their listening draw on the context, i.e. the practitioner-client relationship, and not only on physiological data. Addressing the users' as well as the researcher's perspective, this article demonstrates the value of paying more attention to different forms of listening, both in healthcare and in ethnographic research.

**Keywords:** alternative medicine, user's perspective, bodily practice, phenomenology of the body, Merleau-Ponty

### **Anette Stenslund: Come Nearer. Scent on Display**

Based on experiences drawn from the very first museum exhibition ever dedicated solely to scent, this paper problematizes the abstract level of dealing with odour in terms of objectivity, which is defined at a distance from the experience of human existence. In an effort to move beyond objectified understandings of smell and get up close to the question of smell experiences I draw on the philosophy of Martin Heidegger. Striving to develop a phenomenological approach to smell that could complement already existing smell investigations, I also carry out essential adjustments of the concept of "presence" found in works by Hans



Ulrich Gumbrecht. In emphasizing human existence as being part of the olfactory phenomena this phenomenological examination reveals the foundational ontology of odour. Smell is always “something to someone”; universally smell experiences are particular, and only regionally they can be objectified.

Keywords: olfactory aesthetics, presence, Anwesenheit, Martin Heidegger

### **Susanne Ravn: Ways of Sensing Movement. A Phenomenological Description of Dancers’ Movement Expertise**

Interweaving phenomenological explorations and ethnographical methods this paper aims at contributing to explicating how dancers use their sense of the physical body and its movements when training and performing their expertise. The aim is pursued in two analyses. The first analysis focuses on the practices of professional dancers, who in different ways are trained in ballet and contemporary techniques. Their descriptions reveal how the body’s physicality is present to their experience in a non-objectifying way while dancing. This kind of experience is to be considered an extra dimension of the dancers’ bodily self-consciousness, which concerns what the body feels like in a physical sense when undergoing the movement. The second analysis, which is based on the practices of tango dancers and elite sports dancers, focuses on how they come to form a shared body when dancing with a partner. Phenomenologically described, their bodies extend: their sense of movement includes the “other” in a fundamental way and unfolds on the level of operative intentionality. However, these dancers also make us aware that experiencing the body as extended and shared does not only “happen” but is worked strategically throughout their practice. Accordingly, the two phenomenological analyses challenge the idea that in the skilled performance, the expert is absorbed in the doing. Rather, an extra dimension of bodily self-consciousness is important to the dancers’ way of performing – and the dancers’ sense of movement involves continual processes of mutual incorporation.

Keywords: interdisciplinary methodology, dance research, professional dancers, Argentinean tango, sportsdance

### **Martin Lindhardt: When Religion Enters the Body. On the Phenomenological Turn in Anthropological Ritual Theory**

This article sheds light on phenomenological turns in anthropological ritual theory. Drawing on the work of other scholars and my own research on Pentecostalism in Chile and Tanzania, I argue that a phenomenological focus on different modes of experience and not least on the incarnated being-in-the world is helpful in terms of

adding nuances to classical definitions of religion as related to propositional beliefs (for instance the belief that God exists), ideas and systems of symbols. Among other things the article explores how bodily participation in ritual practices results in the production of ritual agents who, in addition to holding certain beliefs and world views, possess a practical ritual knowledge in the form of skills, dispositions and an intuitive sensitivity to the sacred. It is further argued that embodied ritual practice should in many cases be seen as constitutive of religious life and not just as a materialization of priorly existing religious ideas and beliefs.

Keywords: ritual, phenomenology, body, spontaneity, skills, meaning, belief, Pentecostalism, Chile, Tanzania