

A DANGEROUS LIAISON?
THE ANALYTIC ENGAGEMENT WITH CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY
University of York
9th December 2011

The history of antagonism between the analytic and hermeneutic-phenomenological traditions of philosophy suggests that dialogue is simply not possible, and that the difference runs deeper than approaches, methods, and styles. It seems, however, that both are asking the same questions – or at least questions about the same subjects – even if their answers differ radically. The problems of knowledge, existence, ethics, and aesthetics feature on the agendas of Anglo-American and Continental philosophy alike, and a minority of analytic philosophers have regarded their counterparts as a source of potential enlightenment. Phenomenology in particular is relevant to the philosophy of mind, and Merleau-Ponty's work has been employed by Shaun Gallagher, Alva Noë, Brian O'Shaughnessy, and Charles Taylor. Husserl is another popular choice, with Dan Zahavi and Shaun Gallagher editing *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, a journal aimed at applying Husserl's work to analytic philosophy and other disciplines. Heidegger's hermeneutics have drawn attention from Richard Rorty, Hubert Dreyfus, Gilbert Ryle, and Andy Clark. Christopher Norris has even argued against the perception of Derrida as a postmodernist, advancing his work as a Kantian critique rather than a deconstruction of analytic philosophy. It appears that cross-pollination is not just possible, but actively practised by a self-selected few.

The aim of this one-day conference is to explore the potential for the analytic engagement with the hermeneutic-phenomenological tradition, and consider the value of such an engagement. The conference will take place at the University of York on Friday 9th December 2011, with four keynote speakers:

- Professor Barry Dainton (Liverpool) on TBA
- Professor Christopher Norris (Cardiff) on Derrida
- Dr Denis McManus (Southampton) on Heidegger
- Dr Joel Smith (Manchester) on Merleau-Ponty

There will also be two graduate speakers, to be selected from submissions. Papers are invited on all aspects of the liaison, should include an abstract of up to 200 words, and be a maximum of 3000 words in length. Submissions should be emailed as an attachment to Rafe McGregor at rdm503@york.ac.uk prior to 30th September 2011.

There is a registration fee of £20.00, which includes lunch, and registration in advance is preferable although not essential. Enquiries should be emailed to Ema Sullivan-Bissett at elsb500@york.ac.uk.

The conference is being hosted by the Centre for the History of Philosophy and the Humanities Research Centre at York, and has been funded by The Mind Association and The Aristotelian Society.

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