

**INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN SCIENCE
RESEARCH NEWSLETTER**

Fall 2013

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**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO FALL 2014 NEWSLETTER:
October 15, 2014**

Please email [Dr. Steen Halling](mailto:shalling@seattleu.edu) if your email address changes.

Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

One of the recurrent challenges for conference organizers each year is how to keep the number of presentations in any given time slot to a reasonable number. Typically there are five to seven presentations at the same time and, as was pointed out during the discussion during the business meeting this summer, this means that participants have some hard choices to make. There may be two or more presentations at the same time that one would really like to attend. I would like to suggest one possible way to address this issue: Reduce the number of keynote speakers to three. Keynote presentations are allotted as much as 80 minutes, which is equivalent to the time given to two presentations, and even with just five presentations at a given time, this is equivalent to ten individual presentations. Reducing the number of keynotes also decreases the cost of the conference since each keynote may cost as much as \$2,000 or more if they come from another country. I believe that with fewer keynotes, each one becomes more of a focal point for the conference.

It is certainly up to the conference organizers to decide how many keynotes they invite. However, I would just like to suggest that the old slogan “less is more” may be worth keeping in mind in this context.

Steen Halling, Editor

- *Please pass the newsletter on to interested colleagues via e-mail or any other means—it is free to anyone who wants to receive it.*
- *If your email address changes, please let us know.*

Report on the 2013 Conference, Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark, August 13-16

Report on the 2013 Conference

The 2013 meeting of the International Human Science Research Conference was the first to take place in Aalborg and the second to be held in Denmark. It was organized as a partnership between Aalborg and Aarhus Universities.

The theme of the conference was: *Creativity in human science research, methodology and theory*. The call for papers described the theme as follows: “Creativity is a buzz word in modern society,

which has often been characterized as a “knowledge economy” depending for its continued existence on innovation and the generation of new ideas and products. But creativity is much more than a fashionable concept in industry and management; it also points to fundamental features of human existence that have been studied by human scientists, often in relation to the idea of Bildung, or the creative formation of people, who may become co-creators of personal and social life themselves.

Originally, in the Western culture, creativity was the exclusive province of God, the Creator, but in a secular world, there is an imperative for everyone to become creators in and of their lives. How we evaluate this imperative depends to a large extent on how we theorize creativity as a human phenomenon, in everyday life as well as in the sciences.

All human sciences exist in a tension between tradition and renewal. At the conference, we hope that participants will discuss how to renew the human sciences creatively, and also to presents ideas about what creativity is as a basic human phenomenon. How can phenomenological, hermeneutic and other human science traditions be respected and yet renewed in creative directions? How -- and how much -- should human scientists experiment with creative methodological practices when researching human phenomena? What role can the arts play? Are there limits to creativity? Can human beings become too creative – in life as well as in research? And what can human scientists actually contribute with to the current creativity discourse?”

As organizers, it is our impression that all questions mentioned here were addressed and discussed in vibrant ways at the conference.

The four keynote speakers were: Tim Ingold (University of Aberdeen) talking about “Created goods and the creative good: Imagination and the art of inquiry”; Steen Halling (Seattle University) addressing “The phenomenon as muse: On being open to ‘friendly invasion;” Max van Manen (University of Alberta) telling us about “Inception or the birth of meaning;” and finally Dorthe Jørgensen (Aarhus University) addressing “Creativity and aesthetic thinking.” Coming from different countries and disciplines (anthropology, psychology, education and the history of ideas), the keynote speakers presented the audience with diverse and intriguing human science perspective on creativity.

The 2013 Conference brought together around 230 participants from all around the world, including Canada, United States, Australia, Israel, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Japan, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Poland, Romania, Holland, Germany and Switzerland.

Many different disciplines were represented, ranging from psychology and education to literature and the arts as well as health disciplines.

In addition to the scientific program, the Conference offered different social activities, including a reception at the art museum Kunsten, a City Tour followed by a social evening, and also a conference dinner at the Utzon Center, designed by Jørgen Utzon. Each morning’s program began with “morning inspiration,” demonstrating the Danish tradition of the Folk Highschools, illustrated through singing as a social event.

In connection to the Conference a PhD course taught by Steen Halling and Max van Manen was held as a pre-event.

We want to thank the Universities of Aalborg and Aarhus. We are particularly grateful for the help we received from Charlotte Hyldgaard and Susanne Tøgeby, whose hard work over the months made this event possible.

The Conference planning and organizing Committee:

Finn Thorbjørn Hansen
Charlotte Delmar
Lene Tanggaard
Svend Brinkmann

Report on the Business Meeting

The meeting was chaired by Svend Brinkmann. About forty five people attended.

- 1) Discussion of 2013 conference and related issues. First, the participants enthusiastically expressed their appreciation to the Aalborg organizing committee for their work in running a very enjoyable and well coordinated conference with so many good features. After this there was a discussion of a number of issues pertaining to the IHSR conference in general. A number of participants spoke about the importance of peer review; this was followed by a fairly lengthy discussion of the value of having 40 rather than 30 minutes for presentations; of possibly reducing the number of presentations so that there would not be six or seven at the same time.
- 2) Andrew Foran from St. Francis Xavier University gave a presentation on hosting the 2014 Conference at his university in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada, on August 12-15. Their offer to host was welcomed by the participants. Andrew helped us with the correct pronunciation of Antigonish and used a Power Point presentation to introduce the university and, with the help of a map, demonstrated that it was not difficult to get there: Fly to Halifax and take a bus and car two hours north. (See below for specifics re the 2014 conference).
- 3) Birthe Knizek, the Faculty of Nursing Sør-Trøndelag University College, Trondheim, Norway and her colleagues offered to host the conference in 2015. Trondheim also hosted the conference in 2007, but this is at a different institution there. This offer was also welcomed and the audience was treated to a slide show with pictures of the attractions in Trondheim. Details about Trondheim and the 2015 conference are available below.
- 4) Marcianna Nosek, from the University of San Francisco, suggested that the 2016 conference be held in the San Francisco (USA) area. She will speak to colleagues at other institutions around San Francisco, such as the Saybrook Graduate School, to see if a conference organizing committee could be set up.
- 5) Eva Simms, from the Psychology Department at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh announced that they had two tenure track faculty openings in her department, with the fall of 2014 as the starting date. Steen Halling, from the Psychology Department at Seattle University, announced that they had one tenure track opening also for the fall of 2014.
- 6) Tone Saeve announced on behalf of the journal *Phenomenology + Practice* that the journal was doing well as a peer reviewed, online publication, and that they were looking for submissions.

Steen Halling
Seattle University

**2014 Conference, August 12-15, St. Francis Xavier University
Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada**

Dear Colleagues,

We trust the time since Denmark has been kind and we hope you are all immersed in your areas of qualitative-phenomenological research. On behalf of the conference committee for the 33rd IHSRC, we encourage you to take time to review the conference webpage <http://ihsrc.stfx.ca> where you will find key conference developments, deadlines and particulars regarding the venue. If you have additional questions please direct these to ihsrc@stfx.ca and one of the committee members will respond within 24 hours to your inquiry.

At this time we are very pleased to confirm Gert Biesta (Professor of Educational Theory and Policy at the University of Luxembourg, and Visiting Professor for Education and Democratic Citizenship at Mälardalen University, Sweden), Cathy Adams (Associate Professor; Coordinator, MEd Technology in Education Specialization, University of Alberta), and Alphonso Lingis (Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Pennsylvania State University) as our keynotes. As well, we have an evening set aside to enjoy a “kitchen party” at Crystal Cliffs where you can relax from a hard day conferencing and stroll our Nova Scotian beaches, beverage in hand. We hope to have an evening at our Bauer Theatre where we can enjoy a play hosted by our local Antigonish talent.



As requested in Denmark, we will be advancing the vetting process to conform to Peer Review and we hope to maintain the Poster Board presentations as a daily feature in our schedule. In addition, we are also planning a Preconference and a special session just for Graduate Students. Many delegates expressed an interest in keeping relaxed meeting times for delegates to talk and socialize and we will do our best to ensure this is preserved in the schedule.

We are excited for August 2014 and are looking forward to meeting you all in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Until then, enjoy health and happiness, and begin “advancing” your own research to submit and present! The following are a few key dates to keep in mind and these will be posted to the conference website:

Abstracts are due March 1, 2014
Acceptance by April 1, 2014
Registration by May 1, 2014

Best wishes

Andrew, Tone, Patrick, Rebecca, Kevin, Tess, Erica, Susan, Brenda, and Anthony

2015 Conference, August 12-15, Sør-Trøndelag University College Trondheim, Norway

The 2015 Conference will be held at Sør-Trøndelag University College in Trondheim, Norway around August 12-15. More details will be available in next year’s newsletter and at the business meeting at the 2014 conference. The person who is heading up the organizing committee is Birthe Loa Knizek, PhD, Professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the College. birthe.l.knizek@hist.no

There are non-stop flights to Trondheim (which has a population of 173,000) from London, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Oslo and other major European cities. As the picture and map below show, Trondheim is beautifully situated on the coast of Norway.





Call for Papers on Creativity

Call for Papers for Volume 8, 2014, of *Academic Quarter*, published by the University of Aalborg, Denmark

Theme: CREATIVITY AND CREATIVE APPROACHES IN HUMAN SCIENCE

Guest Editors: Professors Steen Halling, Seattle University, USA and FinnThorbjørn Hansen, Aalborg University, Denmark

Creativity is a buzz word in modern society which has often been characterized as a “knowledge economy,” depending for its continued existence on innovation and the generation of new ideas and products. But creativity is much more than a fashionable concept in industry and management; it also points to fundamental features of human existence that have been studied by human scientists, often in relation to the idea of Bildung [dannelse], or the creative formation of people, who may become co-creators of personal and social life themselves or witnesses to a creation in and of life, that they take part in.

Originally, in Western culture, creativity was the exclusive province of God, the Creator, but in a secular world there is an imperative for everyone to become creators in and of their lives. How we evaluate this imperative depends to a large extent on how we conceptualize creativity as a human phenomenon, in everyday life as well as in the sciences.

All human sciences exist in a tension between tradition and renewal. At the 32th International Human Science Research Conference at Aalborg University in August 2013 more than 230 human scientists from all over the world participated. The theme was creativity and creative approaches in human science and the organizers’ hope was that participants would discuss how to renew the human sciences creatively, and also to present ideas about what creativity is as a basic human phenomenon. How can phenomenological, hermeneutic, and other human science traditions be respected and yet renewed in creative directions? How – and how much – should human scientists experiment with creative methodological practices when

researching human phenomena? What role can the arts play? Are there limits to creativity? Can human beings become too creative – in life as well as in research? And what can human scientists actually contribute to the current creativity discourse?

At the Pre-Conference to IHSRC, where two of the keynote speakers – professor Max van Manen (Canada) and professor Steen Halling (USA) – participated as well, the theme was on the ‘experience of transcendence’ in phenomenology and hermeneutics: How do we – as researchers – put words to that which seems too enigmatic and too saturated with meaning to be captured by scientific language? How do we as human scientists in broad terms work with the more tacit, intuitive, existential, embodied and practical knowledge and insights and those unique, singular and ‘only once-occurrent events’ (Bakhtin, 1993) of dialogue and creation and ‘insider- and on-the-edge-inspirations’ that guides the artists as well as the researcher? How, for example, are we to understand and practice our research if Hans-Georg Gadamer is right in saying that in the face of such profound ‘human experiences’, “...Hence, together with the experience of philosophy, the experience of art is the most insistent admonition to scientific consciousness to acknowledge its own limits” (Gadamer, *Truth and Method*, 1989, p. xxi.)? In what way may we as human scientists, broadly speaking, be inspired by a more philosophizing and artistic attitude towards our ways of listening to the phenomena or subject matter, that our research is oriented toward? What kind of ‘Bildung’ or ‘tactfulness’ is called for in order for the researcher to be able to ‘stand-in-the-openness’ and think and wonder not only from the outside but also from *within* the relation, practice or phenomena that the researcher is engaged in? What may be the relation between on the one hand creativity, wonder and Being (presence) and on the other hand methodology, knowledge production and empirical and scientific writings?

This issue of the next *Academic Quarter* (Vol. 8, Spring 2014) invites human scientists, broadly understood, both from the Human Science Research Conference in Aalborg 2013 but also other researchers to give their thoughts on this topic. The number of articles will be limited to a maximum of 20 where about half of the articles will from researchers who do not come from Denmark. And the criteria for submitting an article will be that the article focuses on one of the themes of:

- a) Research in creativity – What is creativity? or
- b) Research in creative approaches in human science methodology, or
- c) Research in ‘practices’ or learning spaces for ‘Bildung’ that may create in the researcher a more creative, artistic and wondrous attitude.

We encourage writers to form their article in a way that strive for connecting theory, methods and experiences through a more practice-based and practice-situated or situation-specific research approach. And the article should be written in English and in a way that is accessible to not only expert in the narrow research field but also to fellow researchers in other disciplines in human science.

Suggestions for articles:

Suggestion for articles, including an abstract of 150 words should be emailed to **Finn Thorbjørn Hansen** finnth@hum.aau.dk by **December 15, 2013**. Articles will then be reviewed anonymously. The articles should be around **15,000-25,000** keystrokes (around 3,500 words).

Academic Quarter has been approved according to the Danish bibliometrical system for 2011 and forward.

10th International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry

Qualitative Psychology: Critical and Post-Structural Possibilities

University of Illinois at Urban-Champaign

May 21st – May 24th, 2014

Now that Qualitative Inquiry is a recognized approach to knowledge and research practice in psychology, it's time to think about the ways in which the process of constructing knowledge can embrace the complexity of contemporary life, beyond representations, reductions, and universals. This gathering of scholars, practitioners, and students will explore some of the most significant and exciting innovations related to post-structural and critical philosophies.

Wednesday, May 21st:

1. Keynote Dialogue: Norman Denzin and Ken Gergen
2. Conversation Roundtables
3. Data Playgrounds

Friday, May 23rd and Saturday, May 24th:

Paper presentations for the Special Interest Group (SIG) on Qualitative Psychology.

Abstract Submission Procedures

Please submit your abstracts through the conference website: <http://www.icqi.org/>

Abstracts need to be of 150 words or less.

Each submission should clearly specify its category:

- conversation roundtable
- data playground
- paper presentation.

Human Science Research Conference Archives at Seattle University Library

Following the advice of Seattle University Librarian Mary Sepulveda, the material will be available on the shelves at the university but will not be allowed to be taken out of the library. The collection will be divided into three parts, with separate call numbers: 1) Programs from past conferences. [H61.I58], 2) Newsletters. These are yet to be put together and organized. 3) Letters, photographs and other material related to the conference, including material donated by Amedeo Giorgi. This material will be assembled early this coming year.

A reminder: we do **not** have the programs from the first three years of the conference, 1982 University of Michigan Ann Arbor, 1983 (Duquesne University) and 1994 (West Georgia University) and would be most grateful if anyone could find copies of these.

Book News

Gnaulati, E. (2013). *Back to Normal: Why Ordinary Childhood Behavior is Mistaken for ADHD, Bipolar Disorder and Autism Spectrum Disorder*. [Boston, MA: Beacon Press. 239 pp. \$ 27.00].

Dr. Gnaulati who has many years of experience as a practicing clinical psychologist and psychotherapist, also has a background in phenomenological psychology. Written for parents as well as professionals working with children, this book provides compelling explanations for why the diagnosing of children has increased dramatically in the last decade and why, in most cases, this increase is wrong-headed and very unhelpful to children and parents. Gnaulati does not dispute that there are cases where the diagnosis of children with disorders such as ADHD is warranted but he laments the ease and readiness with which children are diagnosed, and the rush to use medication as a remedy for whatever problems arise. Using case studies, he shows how ordinary child behavior (or misbehavior) combined with unfavorable social trends, such as the extreme emphasis on standardized testing, has time and time again resulted in a diagnosis of the ordinary ups and downs of childhood and adolescent existence. Gnaulati writes in a compelling and engaging style while also providing extensive reference to relevant research.

Madison, G. (2013). *On suffering: Philosophical reflections on what it means to be human*. Hamilton, ON: McMaster Innovation Press and Les Erables Publishing [449 pp. \$24.91 through Amazon or Barnes and Noble]. *On Suffering* is a philosophical-literary essay on what it means to be human and is addressed to all those, be they professional philosophers or persons concerned with the meaning of life, who have an abiding interest in the central questions of philosophy—with basic issues having to do with the human condition and the nature of consciousness, as well as with the relation between mind and body, self and world. It is focused on elucidating the meaning of human happiness and the “good life.” Phenomenological in its approach, the book makes abundant use of the best of ancient wisdom and seeks to draw out the numerous and far-reaching implications of a philosophical understanding of freedom and responsibility for everyday living, as well as for the practice of medicine and psychological counseling and therapy.

Schneider, K. (2013). *The Polarized Mind: Why It's Killing Us and What We Can Do About It* [Colorado Springs: University Professors Press, 202 pp. \$ 19.95].

Kirk Schneider is the director of an existential institute in San Francisco, and is also a faculty member at the Saybrook Graduate School.

“This book nicely summarizes a lot of what is already found in a number of Schneider’s books and places it right in the center of current discussions of politics and the fundamentalist mindset. In this way, Schneider adds significantly to that discussion, by helping us to view it not simply through the lens of power politics but rather through the more sensitive eyes of existential-humanist psychology. *The Polarized Mind* as Schneider presents it is characterized as reflecting elevation of one point of view to the utter exclusion of competing points of view. It is extremism, to be sure, but extremism of a particular kind. It is an extremism motivated

fundamentally by existential fear, the fear of groundlessness, extinction, powerlessness, and of feeling that the only way it can establish itself in relation to that fear is by essential annihilation of any and all competing forces. It is a type of thinking that says, in effect, the only way I can exist securely is to rule the very cosmos” (From book review by Professor Daniel Liechty, on the Ernest Becker Foundation website <http://www.ernestbecker.org/>)

Links/Connections

NEW

<http://www.open.ac.uk/socialsciences/ihsrc/>

The International Human Science Research Network is a relatively new website set up by Linda Finlay and Darren Langdridge from the Open University after the 2011 conference at Oxford University, England. It has links to phenomenology related journals and copies of recent newsletters. Over time, it will provide a wide array of material, related to the Human Science Research Community.

[Center for Applied Phenomenological Research at the University of Tennessee](#)

The Center represents scholars from a variety of disciplines including psychology, philosophy, nursing, and literature. The focus is on utilizing phenomenological and other qualitative methods to gain a better understanding of human experience.

[Center for Interpretive and Qualitative Research](#)

Located at Duquesne University, this center has as its purpose the exploration and development of interpretive and qualitative methods.

[Environmental and Architectural Phenomenology \(EAP\)](#)

This newsletter has been in existence for twenty years. Edited by David Seamon, the newsletter is published three times a year. EAP is a forum and clearing house for research and design that incorporates a qualitative approach to environmental and architectural experience. Back issues are now available on the website.

[Existential-Humanistic Institute, San Francisco, USA](#). According to its website, edited by Kirk Schneider, the goal of the institute “is to support both existentially and humanistically informed psychologies and psychotherapies throughout the world.” Its newsletter is on its website as well as a bibliography, a listing of workshops and events, and a directory of related links.

[Gendlin Online Library Launched](#)

In mid-October the Focusing Institute launched a powerful new web-based resource containing over 100 of Eugene Gendlin’s works from 1950 to present. Gendlin is distinguished among philosophers and psychologists for his articulation of the link between logic and felt understanding, which he calls the *Philosophy of Implicit Entry*. Included in the library are published articles, chapters, monographs, and many unpublished articles and conference presentations, all available for free downloading. In some instances several chapters from his books or a special introduction to them are available. Gendlin’s books are also listed in the library and can be purchased from the Focusing Institute or elsewhere. The library is a great resource for the Human Sciences.

[Indo-Pacific Journal of Phenomenology](#). This is a peer reviewed interdisciplinary online journal intended to provide scholars in the southern hemisphere with an avenue through which they can express their scholarship. The journal is an initiative of the Phenomenology Research Group based at Edith Cowan University in Western Australia. There are now four editions of available.

[Initiative in Phenomenological Practice](#). This is a new website and it is described as an “international network connecting anyone who is interested in the ongoingly open possibility of phenomenology by carrying out original phenomenological investigations of any theme, in any context, and using a variety of phenomenological methods.”

[Institute of Health and Community Studies at Bournemouth University](#) in the UK launched its new Centre for Qualitative Research on September 9th, 2003.

International Journal of Existential Psychology and Psychotherapy—IJEPP is the official organ of the **International Society for Existential Psychology and Psychotherapy**. It is [published online](#).

[Interdisciplinary Coalition of North American Phenomenologists](#)

This coalition is for phenomenologists located in North America who are committed to learning from the research of colleagues in other disciplines within our tradition. It has been started by colleagues from Architecture, Communicology, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology, but colleagues from other disciplines will be included.

[International Network of Personal Meaning](#)—is related to both of the above. It is a multidisciplinary, learned society, dedicated to the advancement of knowledge on the vital role of meaning in mental and physical health, spiritual development and other areas of life. It was founded by Dr. Paul Wong and is located in Langley, BC, Canada.

Interest Group on “First Person Science”

This is their statement of purpose:

“Some of us are forming a group to bring together the many kinds of knowledge that now exist about human beings. We are envisioning the possibility of a ‘first person science’ which should develop along with the two current sciences, 1) the reductive physical sciences, and 2) holistic ecology. Many kinds of knowledge about human beings could easily give rise to testable variables, or have already done so. Social policies, currently based only on the two existing sciences, need a third science to go along with the other two.” For more information, please contact [Gene Gendlin](#)

[The Journal of Phenomenological Psychology](#)

This journal publishes articles that advance the discipline of psychology from the perspective of the Continental phenomenology movement. Within that tradition, phenomenology is understood in the broadest possible sense including its transcendental, existential, hermeneutic, and narrative strands and is not meant to convey the thought of any one individual.

[The Humanistic Psychologist](#)

This long-established journal is devoted to reflective inquiry into humanistic psychologies, broadly defined. It publishes papers on qualitative research; humanistic, existential, and constructivist psychotherapies; transpersonal/spiritual psychology and psychotherapy; as well as phenomenological, feminist, and multicultural perspectives. In the spirit of a forward moving field, its editorial board welcomes submissions representing both modern conceptions and postmodern critiques of humanistic psychologies.

[Michigan School of Professional Psychology, Michigan, USA](#)

Clark Moustakas, founding member of the Humanistic Psychology movement and originator of Heuristic Research, established the *Michigan School of Professional Psychology*, formerly the Center for

Humanistic Studies, in 1981. MiSPP offers Masters and PsyD degrees in clinical psychology, emphasizing existential-humanistic principles and clinical application.

[Network for Research on Experiential Psychotherapies \(NREP\)](#)

This website is devoted to the purpose of stimulating research on experiential/humanistic psychotherapies. It has been founded to provide an overview of the whole range of experiential therapy research. It seeks to foster dialogue among researchers and to provide support for new researchers.

Newsletter of Phenomenology—this free weekly newsletter provides information about what is going on in the world of phenomenology, including information about conferences and workshops, lectures, new books. You can [subscribe](#) and [submit content](#) via e-mail.

[Phenomenology & Practice](#) -- P & P is a refereed, human science journal dedicated to the study of the lived experience of a broad range of human practices. P&P publishes twice per year. Occasionally, special themed issues are published in addition to this. Submissions for consideration to the spring and fall issues 2014 are welcome.

[Phenomenology Online](#)

This site provides public access to articles, monographs, and other materials discussing and exemplifying phenomenological research. It is edited by Max van Manen. The site has access to numerous full-text articles, including many from the journal [Phenomenology + Pedagogy](#)

[Saybrook University](#)

Located in San Francisco, Saybrook offers MA and PhD degrees in Human Science and Psychology and has a long-standing tradition of emphasis on critical theory, phenomenology, and humanistic psychology.

[Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center at Duquesne University](#)--this web site has almost all of the abstracts of the psychology dissertations done at Duquesne University, University of Dallas, and a number from Georgia State University and the Saybrook Institute. The dissertations cover a vast spectrum of topics including hopelessness, forgiveness, depression, infidelity, magic and science, psychotherapy, eating disorders, and many more:

[Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences](#)—SPHS encourages the application of phenomenological methodology to specific investigations within the human sciences. You are invited to join SPHS in its effort to achieve a deeper understanding of and engagement with the Life-World. SPHS holds its meetings in conjunction with SPEP (Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy).

Dr. Hiroshi Yasunaga gave the keynote address at the 2001 conference in Tokyo, Japan. His keynote address, “**O. S. Wauchope’s Possible Contributions to the Next Generation: Pattern, Pattern Reversal, and the Phantom Theory**” is [available online](#).

Guidelines for Conference Organizers

This document, originally written in 2006, was revised with input from recent organizers. It provides direction for anyone hosting or thinking of hosting the conference; following these guidelines will reduce aggravations both for organizers and those attending the conference. Thank you to Linda Finlay, Kevin Krycka, Darren Langdridge, and Christian Thiboutot for their comments and suggestions. We have tried to keep these guidelines as straightforward as possible. The first section reflects the conference tradition; the second section pertains to logistical

considerations that would be of interest to any conference organizers.

The HSRC Tradition

Theme:

The theme is selected by the organizers and ideally is one that has broad appeal even while it may be of particular interest to the organizers. Not every conference has had a theme (e.g., West Hartford, USA, 1994; Quebec, Canada, 1990). Some of the past themes include: The Values that Bind Us (Bournemouth, 2005), Caring for the Next Generation (Japan, 2001), Human Science Research and Human Vulnerability (Stockholm, Sweden, 2003), and Renewing the Encounter between Human Sciences, the Arts and the Humanities (Montreal, Canada, 2012).

Participants are encouraged to submit presentations that are related to the conference theme but it has **never** been a requirement that presentations be related to the theme. Typically only a modest number of papers address the conference theme.

Reception to start the Conference

It has become a tradition that there is a social event (e.g., wine and cheese) the evening before the actual presentations start (as well as the possibility of registering) so that people can socialize and get oriented to the conference.

Presentations:

Individual presentations are ordinarily given 40 minutes, with the understanding that 10 minutes be set aside for questions and discussions. The general rule is that conversation and dialogue are critical parts of the conference and so there is a clear expectation that there be time for discussion at the end of every presentation, including keynotes, symposia, and paper presentations.

There are always a number of presentations at the same time (except for when keynote speakers present). The idea is to have varied presentations at the same time so that participants can choose between areas such as empirical findings, philosophy, education, healthcare, research methods etc. **However, the ideal is also to avoid having too many presentations at the same time. If there are too many, some presenters may have very few people attending and participants may miss a lot of presentations that they would like to hear.**

Each year there are some presenters who have a very small audience. There is probably no way to avoid that, but there are some things that might make this less of a problem:

- 1) Scheduling—avoid having people who are relatively unknown and whose topics are very specialized present at the same time as the most popular presenters,
- 2) Help presenters, especially those whose command of English is not so strong, develop abstracts and titles that are a little more interesting than the ones they submitted initially.

It is important to have brief breaks between all sessions—as well as slightly longer mid-morning and afternoon coffee/tea breaks.

There are no specific rules for panel discussions or symposia except that usually these require three or more presenters. However, if too much time is given for them, fewer people will attend.

Typically a panel presentation is the length of two individual presentations.

Submissions of Abstracts:

Typically, the organizers ask participants to submit abstracts of about 250 words for individual papers and longer for panels or symposia. The deadline for the submissions is listed in the fall Newsletter and on the web site for the conference. **Please note that the great majority of submissions almost always come in just before the deadline!**

Keynotes:

The benefit of keynotes or invited presenters is that they can address the conference theme, attract more participants (if they are famous or highly respected—for example Paul Ricoeur in 1990), stimulate discussion and debate because most people will hear them. The drawback of keynotes is that they may be expensive to bring in, reduce the number of slots for others to present, and may not be as interesting as some of the regular presenters. The number of presenters has varied considerably (from one at Seattle in 1988 to 4 in Sheffield, UK in 1999, to 17 in Ottawa in 1987). Around three is probably a good number, assuming that the conference is just three and half days, which has been the norm for this conference

Some conferences have also had keynote panels. These can work well with good chairing, an interesting topic, compelling panelists with various points of view, and time for dialogue among the panelists and with the audience.

Conference Cost:

The registration fee has varied over the years; the registration cost for Montreal was \$ 235, including coffee breaks and snacks, and this is fairly typical for the last several conferences. But some countries are obviously more expensive than others while in some cases there were outside sources of funding that gave the conference organizers the possibility of reducing costs. Overall, it is good to keep in mind that most of those who attend have modest travel budgets, and keeping registration fees and lodging in the moderate range is desirable. Setting a realistic registration fee that covers cost but is not so high that it discourages attendance is important.

In the past a good number of students have attended and some who presented Student involvement is something that we should encourage. There is no rule that there is a lower registration fee although for some conferences this has been true. It is a good way to increase student involvement. Another way to support student participation is by offering scholarships or bursaries.

Business Meeting:

The agenda for business meeting usually starts with: 1) an evaluation of the current conference, 2) expression of appreciation to the current year hosts, 3) a presentation on next year's conference, 4) consideration of proposals for the hosting of the conference two years ahead, 5) brief discussion of the newsletter, and 6) other items that may come up. Generally an hour and half is enough time.

Do encourage people to attend regardless of whether they have come to the conference before.

Emphasize that this is a “community” event. The end of the second to last day of the conference is a good time to schedule it. Having it on the last day is not desirable because by that time many people are packing or have already left.

Conference Proceedings/Program:

The program should list all the basic information about the conference and, of course, list the schedule of presentations, as well as the abstracts. It is also customary—and helpful—to give everyone’s contact information—or at least their emails. This list should include everyone who registered, not just presenters.

Please email the list of email addresses to the HSRC Newsletter editor (in a WORD Document) after the conference so new addresses can be added to the newsletter notification list).

Restaurants/Local Places to Visit

This is by no means a requirement but if the host faculty and students know of restaurants they would recommend, please let the participants know. Even a list with five or six places would be appreciated, along with recommendations for pubs, places to shop, and local attractions.

Logistics:

1. A good website, one that can readily be updated, for the conference will make life easier for everyone, organizers as well as participants. Lots of information about travel, weather, accommodations, and sightseeing is helpful. Links to maps and other resources can make people’s travel experience more pleasant and less confusing.
2. Make it clear at the outset whether it is possible for people who are not presenting, to register at the conference site. Also, be clear whether or not participants can sign up for special events (e.g., cruises or dinners) at the beginning of the conference. Highlight **DEADLINES** for submission of abstracts, registering for the conference, signing up for accommodations and so on.
3. If the institution has student housing that is available to participants that is an asset because it is likely to be less expensive than hotels and right on the campus. Be careful however, to give a realistic picture of what the accommodation is like and what is or is not available in each room.
4. Having a good registration website also makes life easier for everyone. Ideally, this web site allows registrants to make changes (until a specified deadline) in the number of nights they are staying etc.
5. Plan ahead for what your refund policy will be, whether you decide that you cannot really give refunds or whether refunds might be possible given adequate attendance.
6. Communicate with those registered by email as well as through updating your website. Some people will rely more on one than the other.
7. It is a good idea to send out a draft of the program to presenters. But do tell them that if they do not respond with suggestions for change of time etc. then they cannot make changes later.
8. In planning the dates and times for the conference, please keep the following in mind: a) many participants will be flying long distances and from different time zones, b) there are often days of the week when airfares may be lower, c) avoid as far as possible, conflicts with other conferences that participants may want to attend (e.g., the American Psychological Association Convention), d) the last day is typically a half day meeting.

Having interesting events or speakers as part of that day may help to keep people from leaving early.

9. There are always problems with technology so it is important to have tech support people available. Also, let participants know in advance what resources (e.g., Wi-Fi) are and are not available.