

13 Edmund Husserl's methodology of concept clarification

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[I]t is precisely behind the 'self-evident' (*Selbstverständlichkeiten*) that the hardest problems lie hidden ... so much so that philosophy may be paradoxically but not unprofoundly called the science of trivialities (*die Wissenschaft von der Trivialitäten*).

(Husserl, *Logical Investigations*)¹

1 Philosophy as a priori essential analysis

That Edmund Husserl (1859–1938), with his *phenomenology*, revolutionized the way philosophy was practised in the twentieth century is well known. It is less well known that his overall approach to the analysis of philosophical problems had much in common with practices associated with the then emerging 'analytic' philosophy. Both advocate rigorous method, abandoning speculation, solving *problems* rather than tracking themes through the history of philosophy, pursuing analyses through carefully drawn distinctions, and so on.² Husserl drew his own concept of analysis from several sources including: Weierstrass's conception of arithmetical analysis; Brentano's descriptive psychology; and the typical analyses of the classical empiricist tradition that involved cashing out concepts in terms of some basic sensory intuitions ('impressions'). However, he continued to develop original and unique forms of analysis, specifically those involving identifying the a priori subjective (but not empirical psychological) acts involved in the constitution of objectivities of every form. For Husserl, the practice of philosophy involves the exploration of the a priori. As he wrote in the *Logical Investigations*:

The a priori ... is, at least in its primitive forms, obvious, even trivial, but its systematic demonstration, theoretical pursuit and phenomenological clarification remains of supreme scientific and philosophical interest, and is by no means easy.

(LU IV §14, II, p. 73; Hua XIX/1 345)

1 In carrying out his project, Husserl offers many penetrating and innova-
 2 tive a priori conceptual analyses of scientific and epistemic concepts, e.g. his
 3 analysis of the concept of logic as a pure a priori formal science, his differ-
 4 entiation of the formal and the material a priori, his accounts of intention-
 5 ality, signification, object, content, whole and part, universals, the meaning
 6 of identity (against Frege), inference (*Schluss*), consequence (*Folge*), direct
 7 reference, and so on. In addition, Husserl offers rich and original char-
 8 acterizations of perception, fantasy, memory, pictorial-awareness, judge-
 9 ment and other modalities of consciousness as part of an overall reflective a
 10 priori analysis of the essence of consciousness as such. Obviously, in this
 11 paper, we cannot rehearse all these various conceptual analyses; rather, we
 12 shall attempt to specify more precisely what Husserl's conception of phe-
 13 nomenological analysis is, especially as he employed it in the period from
 14 1891 to 1907, when he was formulating his very particular understanding of
 15 'descriptive phenomenology' as it evolved from Brentanian *descriptive psy-*
 16 *chology*.

17 In the period between 1891 and 1901, Husserl primarily understood
 18 phenomenology as the fundamental 'clarification' (*Klärung*) and 'epistemic
 19 critique' (*Erkenntniskritik*) of what he termed the 'Idea of knowledge', set-
 20 ting out the a priori structures of the concepts and acts involved essentially
 21 in cognition and knowledge per se. In particular, Husserl is seeking a spe-
 22 cific kind of analysis that involves the identification of certain subjective
 23 conditions necessary for objective cognition, and trying to distinguish these
 24 'phenomenological' conditions from the empirical, factual or 'psychological'
 25 conditions also involved in human cognition. After 1907, he came to
 26 recognize the affinity between his approach and that of Kant, and reformu-
 27 lated phenomenology as a new and radical kind of transcendental philo-
 28 sophy.³ This latter development, which included embracing the concept of
 29 the transcendental ego which he had earlier resisted, lies outside the scope
 30 of this paper, but it is worth emphasizing that Husserl's later investigations
 31 continue to deepen his interest in the a priori correlation between forms of
 32 objectivity and the subjective achievements that constitute them.

33 **2 Philosophy as clarification of fundamental scientific concepts**

34 Husserl originally trained as a mathematician, was briefly an assistant to
 35 Karl Weierstrass, the founder of arithmetical analysis, enjoyed close perso-
 36 nal and professional relations with Cantor and Hilbert, and corresponded
 37 with leading mathematicians and logicians including Gottlob Frege. Due to
 38 his contact with one of the pioneers of descriptive psychology – Franz
 39 Brentano – Husserl changed career from mathematics to philosophy. His
 40 first publication, *Philosophy of Arithmetic* (1891, hereafter PA),⁴ offers a
 41 descriptive psychological analysis of basic mathematical concepts and
 42 operations. He speaks of finding the 'origin' (*Ursprung*, PA Hua XII 17; 64),
 43 'genesis' (*Entstehung*, PA XII 17) or 'source' (*Quelle*, PA XII 179) of basic

1 arithmetical 'concepts' (*Begriffe*) in order to clarify their 'essence and ori-
 2 gination' (*Wesen und Entstehung*, PA XII 15). The subtitle of PA, 'Logical
 3 and Psychological Analyses', clearly indicates that Husserl envisages differ-
 4 ent kinds of analysis, although he does not explicitly differentiate them
 5 within the work itself. Gradually, as is evident from the *Logical Investiga-*
 6 *tions* (e.g. LU II §6; II §31) and later (e.g. *Formal and Transcendental Logic*),
 7 he evolved a tripartite distinction between 'psychological', 'phenomeno-
 8 logical' and logical analyses.

9 Husserl was inspired by Franz Brentano's vision of philosophy as a rig-
 10 orous science. For him – as for Brentano and, indeed, later for
 11 Wittgenstein – philosophy aims at 'clarification' or 'illumination' (*Klärung*,
 12 *Aufklärung*, *Klarlegung* *Erhellung*).⁵ Clarification means 'making sense',
 13 casting critical light on the achievements of cognition (*Erkenntnis*), which
 14 Husserl understood in the broadest sense to include (especially in his later
 15 writings) the whole human encounter with the world as it is carried out in
 16 the 'natural attitude' as well as in scientific practice. Indeed philosophy itself
 17 aims at 'ultimate clarification' (*Letztklärung*) or 'ultimate grounding'
 18 (*Letztbegründung*) of the sense of our entire cognitive accomplishment.
 19 Clarification, however, must – as with Aristotle – accord with the level of
 20 exactness that the subject-matter itself allows.⁶ The philosophical clarifica-
 21 tion that Husserl sought involved gaining a grasp of the essential (or, in his
 22 words, 'eidetic') character of the key concepts in any specific epistemic or
 23 ontological domain.

24 In his early years Husserl was concerned primarily with *epistemological*
 25 clarification, the 'critique of knowledge', 'the elucidation ... of the sense
 26 and possibility of validly objective knowledge'.⁷ For him, clarification could
 27 not be piecemeal but had to extend to the interconnecting unity of all the
 28 sciences; indeed, it had to justify the very theories of science also. In short
 29 philosophy requires a complete 'theory of science' (*Wissenschaftslehre*) and
 30 must be carried out in a rigorously scientific manner:

31 Above all, philosophy means not irrelevant, speculative mysticism but
 32 rather nothing other than the ultimate radicalisation of rigorous sci-
 33 ence.

34 (Draft Preface, p. 30; Fink 123)

35 Like Kant, Husserl was dissatisfied with the vagueness and lack of defi-
 36 nition of many central philosophical concepts and with the manner in which
 37 every philosophical insight was endlessly disputed. Philosophy had become
 38 a matter of opinion or taste with no hope of agreement and resolution of
 39 difficulties. Equally, Husserl was also dissatisfied with the lack of theoretical
 40 rigour in the formal sciences. They too displayed 'lack of inner clarity and
 41 rationality' (LU Prol. §4, I, p. 15; Hua XVIII 26). The experimental sciences
 42 of his day were shot through with prejudice, specifically, a leaning towards
 43 *positivism* (which too narrowly restricted the data of evidence to the date of

1 sensation, Hua XXV 9). Not only was philosophy not scientific, but the
 2 sciences themselves lacked ‘the philosophical spirit’ as he would later put it
 3 (Hua XI 355).

4 *Phenomenology* is announced in the Introduction to the Second Volume
 5 of the *Logical Investigations* (1901) as *the* method for eliminating prejudice
 6 and clarifying once and for all fundamental epistemological and logical
 7 concepts, so as to set philosophy on the royal road to secure science. Hus-
 8 serl had left the analysis of purely mathematical concepts in order to focus
 9 on central *epistemic* concepts that belong to the very ‘form of knowledge’
 10 (LU *Prolog.* §67), e.g.: ‘proposition’, ‘sense’, ‘object’, ‘state of affairs’, ‘judge-
 11 ment’ and, crucially, ‘evidence’ and ‘truth’. His aim was to bring these
 12 concepts to ‘clarity and distinctness’ by grasping their evidential character,
 13 which, as in PA, still involved tracing them back to their ‘ultimate sources’
 14 (Hua XX/1 280), in the intuitions that underlie them. As Husserl insists:
 15 ‘Logical concepts, as valid thought-unities, must have their origin in intui-
 16 tion’ (LU, Intro. §2, I, p. 168, Hua XIX/1 10). The problem, then, is how to
 17 understand this appeal to intuition in Husserlian phenomenology.

18 3 Grounding concepts in intuitions

19 Husserl was captivated by Descartes’ project of securing science on the basis
 20 of evident cognitions, cognitions given ‘clearly and distinctly’ (*clare et dis-*
 21 *tincte*).⁸ Central to the Cartesian way is an account of evidence. However,
 22 for Husserl, neither Descartes nor the modern philosophical tradition
 23 grasped the real meaning of evidence. As Husserl would put it in his 1906–7
 24 lectures:

25 Descartes lacked, as did all modernity, any intentional explication of
 26 evidence as the achievement of self-presentation (*Selbstdarstellung*), in
 27 which the currently meant comes to original self-givenness.
 28 (XXXIV 409, my translation)

29 For Husserl, evidence has ultimately to be construed in terms of *self-*
 30 *givenness* of the matter. Following the empiricist tradition, Husserl main-
 31 tains that knowledge begins from experience and must be related back to
 32 experience: ‘living is ... in a certain sense, an experiencing’ (*So zu leben*
 33 *ist ... in gewissem Sinn ein Erleben*; Hua XXV 144). Experience, however,
 34 has to be accorded its fullest significance.

35 In *Philosophy of Arithmetic* Husserl had already enunciated a (super-
 36 ficially) empiricist principle according to which ‘no concept can be thought
 37 without a foundation (*Fundierung*) in a concrete intuition’ (PA Hua XII 79).
 38 He would continue to maintain this emphasis on the epistemic priority of
 39 intuition throughout his life (see e.g. Hua XXIV 46–7). It is not enough to
 40 merely work with signs and empty symbols and to refer to things in their
 41 absence; rather, all genuine thinking must finally be secured by relating it to

1 direct immediate intuition of objects in their presence. In LU he writes: 'All
 2 evidence of judging (all actual cognising in the pregnant sense) presupposes
 3 meanings that are intuitively fulfilled' (LU I §21, I, p. 212 (trans. modified);
 4 XIX/1 77). In his work Husserl became clearer about the kinds of intuitive
 5 fulfilment demanded by different kinds of concepts. Not all domains can
 6 meet the demands for 'apodictic evidence': 'final fulfilment represents an
 7 ideal of perfection' (LU VI Intro, II, p. 185; XIX/2 540), and involves
 8 complete agreement and synthetic unity between what is intended and what
 9 is actually grasped in intuition (called 'perception' in a wider sense). But in
 10 all cognition, there is, according to Husserl, an intention that aims at ful-
 11 fulfilment. At least as early as LU, Husserl construes knowledge in terms of
 12 *fulfilment* of intuition. In fulfilment, 'the object is given "intuitively" in the
 13 same way in which the mere meaning means it' (LU VI §28, II, p. 245; XIX/
 14 2 625). But what Husserl does, over and against the philosophical tradition
 15 (especially against empiricism and positivism) is to extend greatly the range
 16 of possible forms of fulfilment. For him, as we shall see, classical empiri-
 17 cism, especially, had a false and overly restricted notion of what is given in
 18 experience with its fantastic assumptions concerning atomistic sense data
 19 and its dogmatic rejection of the possibility of directly intuiting high-order
 20 ideal and categorial objectivities (universals, abstract objects, propositions,
 21 and so on, *Ideas* I §§19–20).

22 Knowing something means directly having it in one's grasp, but Husserl
 23 greatly widens the concept of perception to include non-sensuous forms of
 24 categorial intuition, where 'states of affairs' are brought directly to intui-
 25 tion. It is part of the project of the Sixth Investigation in particular to argue
 26 for a broadened sense of intuition and perception (see LU VI, Intro., II, p.
 27 186; XIX/2 541). For instance, Archimedes' 'eureka' moment represents an
 28 experience of evident cognition (in this instance: about the essential nature
 29 of flotation) that far exceeds what is given merely to sensuous intuition. The
 30 key to Husserl's concept of evidence, then, is grasp its multiple character.
 31 One simply has to recognize from the outset that cognition means grasp of
 32 the matter itself, but there are, as in Aristotle, many ways in which the
 33 matter itself can be given. Once Husserl develops his concept of the relation
 34 between intention and fulfilment, *clarification* becomes for him the relating
 35 of concepts to fulfilling intuitions,⁹ that is, bringing them to 'evidence'.
 36 Meanings are to be 'clarified both by going back to the analytically
 37 explored essential connections between meaning intentions and meaning
 38 fulfilments, and also by making their possible function in cognition intelli-
 39 gible and certain' (LU Intro. §2, I, p. 168; Hua XIX/1 10–11).

40 In his mature writing (roughly 1905–38), Husserl expands the meaning of
 41 phenomenology to be the clarification of the *sense* of all the forms of
 42 'givenness' (*Gegebenheit*), including those that resist objectification and
 43 remain in some sense 'other' (such as our experience of others' own con-
 44 scious states). Husserl frequently speaks of grasping the 'being-sense'
 45 (*Seinssinn*) or 'being-validity' (*Seinsgeltung*) of a situation. Such sense clar-

1 ification involves grasping how the established sense or meaning of an
 2 object is in fact a product of certain specific subjective constitutional pro-
 3 cesses of ‘sense bestowal’ (*Sinngebung*). Husserl believes that the true
 4 understanding of any object, situation or region, means understanding how
 5 sense gets conferred or bestowed on that particular object or region, a sense
 6 that can be recovered in a kind of ‘reflection’ (*Besinnung*) or reflective ana-
 7 lysis. As he defines it in his *Formal and Transcendental Logic* (1929), clar-
 8 ification is a matter of moving from vaguely grasped ideas to fully informed
 9 concepts:

10 *Sense-investigation* [*Besinnung*] signifies nothing but the attempt to pro-
 11 duce the sense ‘itself’ . . . it is the attempt to convert the ‘intensive sense’
 12 (as it was called in the *Logical Investigations*), the sense ‘vaguely float-
 13 ing before us’ in our unclear aiming, into the fulfilled, the clear, sense,
 14 and thus to procure for it the evidence of its clear possibility.¹⁰

15 **4 Husserl’s relation to classical empiricism and the ‘English’ logical** 16 **tradition**

17 In the mid-nineteenth-century backlash against Hegelian idealism, German
 18 philosophers turned not only (and famously) ‘back to Kant’ (*zurück zu*
 19 *Kant*), but also to the classical empiricist tradition exemplified not only by
 20 David Hume and J.S. Mill but also by the certain progressive English
 21 mathematical logicians: William Stanley Jevons (1835–82), Sir William
 22 Hamilton, George Boole (1815–64) and John Venn (1834–1923). The
 23 German logician Christoph Sigwart (1830–1904), for instance, in the *Pre-*
 24 *face* to the English translation of his *Logic*, acknowledges his debt to
 25 ‘English logicians from Francis Bacon down to Jevons, Bradley and
 26 Venn’.¹¹ Husserl too was deeply indebted to this logical tradition, although
 27 he also criticized it relentlessly. He wanted to purify empiricism of pre-
 28 judices foreign to it.

29 For Husserl, empiricism represented ‘a radicalism of philosophical prac-
 30 tice’,¹² setting itself against all idols of superstition, including Scholastic
 31 entities such as ‘ideas’ and ‘essences’. In that sense, Husserl says in *Ideas I*,
 32 it ‘springs from the most praiseworthy motives’, but it carries a conceptual
 33 and unexamined baggage.¹³ Husserl admired Berkeley and Hume for their
 34 attempt to do detailed work ‘from below’ and for producing at least a kind
 35 of proto-phenomenological analysis of certain concepts. An instance of such
 36 empiricist analysis is Locke’s suggestion that the concept of solidity has its
 37 origin in the experience of resistance. Locke writes:

38 The idea of *solidity* we receive by our touch: and it arises from the
 39 resistance which we find in body to the entrance of any other body into

1 the place it possesses, till it has left it. There is no idea which we receive
2 more constantly from sensation than solidity.¹⁴

3 Similarly, in his *New Theory of Vision*, Berkeley explains how the *sense of*
4 *distance* is achieved in terms of certain immediately felt experiences of the
5 sensory movements of the eyes that act as cues, which though custom and
6 habit come to be associated with different distances of the object from the
7 perceiver. In similar vein, Husserl was deeply impressed by Hume's analysis
8 of causation in terms of contiguity and succession which he interpreted as a
9 diagnosis of the 'subjective genesis' of 'transcendent objectivities' that had
10 been taken for granted as realities independent of subjectivity (see FTL
11 §100).

12 At the same time, Husserl was a relentless critic of extreme empiricism 'as
13 absurd a theory of knowledge as extreme scepticism' (LU *Prol.* §26 Appen-
14 dix, I, p. 59; Hua XVIII 94). Husserl's overall complaint against empiricism
15 was that it misunderstood and incorrectly 'theorized' the very nature of the
16 'given' on which it depended. Empiricists start from 'unclarified pre-
17 conceived opinions'.¹⁵ In the *Prolegomena* (1900) Husserl writes:

18 Extreme empiricism is as absurd a theory of knowledge as extreme
19 scepticism. It destroys the possibility of the rational justification of
20 mediate knowledge, and so destroys its own possibility as a scientifically
21 proven theory.

22 (LU *Prol.* §26, I, p. 59; Hua XVIII 94)

23 Empiricism purports to arrive at general statements yet these are suppo-
24 sedly drawn from 'singular judgements of experience'. It justifies its princi-
25 ples and laws *mediately* through induction,¹⁶ but what principles justify
26 such induction, what principles govern this mediate inference? Empiricists
27 are forced to appeal to 'naïve, uncritical, everyday experience' which it then
28 explains in Humean fashion in terms of psychological regularities. Empiri-
29 cism thus confuses the *psychological origin* of judgements, 'on account of
30 their supposed "naturalness"',¹⁷ with their epistemic *justification*. This ends
31 up as a form of psychologism.¹⁸ The radical empiricist assumes that the
32 only access to things themselves comes through *immediate* sensory experi-
33 ence. But, for Husserl, natural things do not constitute the whole set of
34 kinds of things, and thus empiricism at best only reveals things of nature.
35 Already in LU, Husserl argues that empiricism unnecessarily and quite
36 arbitrarily restricts the range of possible verification or confirmation of
37 judgements. In the Second Investigation in particular, he attacks the
38 empiricist *psychological* accounts of abstraction and points to their defects
39 in terms of a conceptual analysis of what is required to intuit universals. In
40 general, empiricism has no sense of the normative nature of cognition.

41 To overcome the empiricist misunderstanding of logic and mathematics in
42 particular, Husserl turned to the older logical tradition of Kant, Bolzano

1 and its contemporary exponent Lotze. Kant treated logic as an independent
 2 science (LU *Prolog.* §13) made up of purely necessary a priori laws (LU *Prolog.*
 3 §19), but he believed that the logicians who supposedly followed Kant had
 4 been seduced into psychologism. Alexander Bain, the Scottish follower of
 5 Mill, for instance, had fallen prey to psychologism. Indeed Kant's and
 6 Herbart's supposed 'pure' logics were not without confusion (LU *Prolog.* §20).
 7 It was Husserl's chance discovery of Bolzano's *Wissenschaftslehre* in a
 8 second-hand bookshop that set him on a mission to correct what he regarded
 9 as deviant tendencies in contemporary German logic. Inspired by Bol-
 10 zano, and by Hermann Lotze's *Logic*, Husserl embarked on a mission to
 11 clarify the nature of the given. In particular he needed to emphasize that the
 12 ideal (e.g. the species Red as opposed to the particular instance of *red*) is as
 13 much a part of the given of our experience as the sensuous.

14 The virtue of phenomenology, by contrast, was that it recognized the
 15 multiplicity of evident forms of givenness. Indeed Husserl criticized both
 16 Descartes and the rationalists as well as the empiricists for their dogmatic
 17 restriction in advance (and for theoretical reasons) of the legitimate intuitive
 18 forms. In his 'Philosophy as a Rigorous Science' article of 1910/1911 Hus-
 19 serl would write:

20 To study some kind of objectivity (*Gegenständlichkeit*) or other in
 21 accordance with its universal essence . . . means to investigate its modes
 22 of givenness and to exhaust its eidetic content in the appurtenant pro-
 23 cesses of 'clarification'.¹⁹

24 Analysis, then, for Husserl involves explicating an objectivity with reference
 25 to the mode of givenness by which its objective 'content' is given. Husserl
 26 came to recognize more and more that objectivities are essentially and a
 27 priori correlated to certain attitudes that disclose them. For instance, art
 28 objects appear as such under the aesthetic attitude; humans are given as
 29 persons in the personalistic attitude, and so on. The relating of objective
 30 forms to distinct attitudes became an intrinsic part of Husserl's mature
 31 concept of phenomenological analysis under the designation 'noetic-noe-
 32 matic' analysis that Husserl adopted from around 1913 on.

33 **5 Psychological and conceptual clarification in the *Philosophy of*** 34 ***Arithmetic***

35 I would like now to explore the manner in which subjective acts of con-
 36 stitution are already at work in Husserl's earliest attempts at analysis in his
 37 *Philosophy of Arithmetic*. Here Husserl employed the basic procedures of
 38 Brentanian descriptive psychology to vindicate Weierstrass's concept of
 39 number. Later in his *Draft Preface* (1913) to the revised edition of LU,
 40 Husserl describes his first work as aiming at 'elucidating the cognitive
 41 accomplishment (*Erkenntnisleistung*) of arithmetic and of purely analytical

1 mathematics in general' (*Draft Preface*, p. 33; Fink 125/6). A particularly
 2 subtle piece of 'descriptive psychological' analysis in PA is Husserl's eluci-
 3 dation of the role played by time in the intuition of number. A more careful
 4 examination of this analysis is helpful for grasping how Husserl distin-
 5 guishes between psychological and logical analysis.

6 As is well known, Kant claimed that number is based on the intuition of
 7 succession and hence is related to time as the form of inner sense. Husserl
 8 offers a richer analysis of number that tries to isolate the component 'acts'
 9 that are involved in generating the concept. The analysis of number offered
 10 in PA turns on one particular form of *synthesis* that he calls 'collective
 11 combination' (*kollektive Verbindung*). He holds collective combination to be
 12 a necessary component of the intuition of numbers. But this combination
 13 has been misconstrued by other thinkers. It is not a form of temporal
 14 (Kant) or spatial (Lange) synthesis. When I am counting a group of objects,
 15 their order and position is irrelevant (PA, pp. 36–7). Lange on the other
 16 hand thought spatial synthesis was the 'archetype of all synthesis' (PA, p.
 17 37).

18 Husserl denies that the concept of number derived from our spatial
 19 intuitions:

20 Let us represent to ourselves by means of an example how we collec-
 21 tively hold together or count spatial objects. Do we, in doing this,
 22 attend constantly and necessarily to the relationships of order and
 23 position? Certainly not . . . Two apples remain two apples, whether we
 24 set them closer together or further apart, whether we shift them to the
 25 right or to the left, up or down. Number has exactly nothing whatso-
 26 ever to do with spatial location.

27 (PA, pp. 37–8; Hua XII 36–7)

28 Similarly, against Kant, Husserl maintains that time does not form part
 29 of the *essence* of number. He reasons that

30 To perceive temporally successive contents does not yet mean to per-
 31 ceive contents as temporally successive . . . But it is important to
 32 consider . . . that, even where we notice a temporal sequence of contents,
 33 in no way are determinate multiplicities already marked out. That is
 34 only brought about by certain psychical acts of collecting. To overlook
 35 them means to leave out of account precisely that which forms the true
 36 and only source [*Quelle*] of the concept of multiplicity as well as of the
 37 concept of number.

38 (PA, pp. 30–1; Hua XII 29–30)

39 In other words, the act of grasping (intuiting) a temporal succession
 40 involves an act of synthesis or collecting, the bringing together of different
 41 intuitions into a unified collection.

1 In his own analysis, Husserl discusses several examples that involve iso-
 2 lating the particular psychological acts involved in noticing temporal suc-
 3 cession *as* succession:

4 The clock sounds off with its uniform tick-tock. I hear the particular
 5 ticks, but it need not occur to me to attend to their temporal sequence.
 6 But even if I do attend to it, that still does not involve singling out
 7 some number of ticks, and uniting them into a *totality* by an inclusive
 8 noticing. Or take another example: Our eyes roam about in various
 9 directions, fixing now upon this, now upon that object, and evoking
 10 manifold representations succeeding one another in a corresponding
 11 order. But a special interest is necessary if the temporal sequence
 12 involved here is to be separately and specifically noticed. And in order
 13 to maintain a grasp on some or all of the noticed objects themselves, to
 14 relate them to each other, and to gather them into a totality, here again
 15 are required special interests and special acts of noticing directed upon
 16 just those contents picked out and no others. That is to say, even if the
 17 temporal sequence in which objects are colligated were always attended
 18 to, it would still remain incapable of grounding by itself alone the unity
 19 of the collective whole. And since we cannot even concede that tem-
 20 poral succession enters into the representation of each concrete totality
 21 merely as an invariable constituent always attended to, it is clear that
 22 even less can it in any way enter into the corresponding *general concept*
 23 (multiplicity, number).

24 (PA, pp. 31–2; Hua XII 30–1)

25 In other words, the recognition of specific psychological aspects of an
 26 experience call for ‘special interests and special acts of noticing’ and not all
 27 such psychological activities are relevant to *the concept* being considered.
 28 Simply seeing time as involved in all acts of collecting in one sense does not
 29 mean that time plays a role in the articulation of the concept in the specific
 30 sense required.

31 In his analysis of the kind of operation which yields number, therefore,
 32 Husserl specifies certain ‘psychological’ features of the act of combining,
 33 and in this process he rejects as irrelevant spatial or temporal ordering.
 34 Similarly, counting objects involves treating them as unities and hence
 35 abstracting from their other properties (‘cleansing them in the psychological
 36 washtub’ as Frege disparagingly called it in his review of Husserl’s PA).²⁰
 37 Husserl himself interprets this kind of abstraction as a kind of disregard or
 38 lack of interest in certain features of the experience:

39 To disregard or abstract from something means merely to give it no
 40 special notice. The satisfaction of the requirement wholly to abstract
 41 from the peculiarities of the contents thus absolutely does not have the
 42 effect of making those contents, and therewith their combination, dis-

1 appear from our consciousness. The grasp of the contents, and the col-
 2 lection of them, is of course the precondition of the abstraction. But in
 3 that abstraction the isolating interest is not directed upon the contents,
 4 but rather exclusively upon their linkage in thought — XII 79)

5 He continues:

6 The abstraction to be carried out can now be described in the following
 7 manner: Determinate individual contents of some sort are given in col-
 8 lective combination. In abstractively passing over, then, to the general
 9 concept, we do not attend to them as contents determined thus and so.
 10 Rather, the main interest is concentrated upon their collective combi-
 11 nation, whereas they themselves are considered and attended to only as
 12 some contents in general, each one as a *certain something*, a *certain one*.
 13 (PA p. 83; Hua XII 79)

14 Husserl thinks of the concept of number as arising from our specific dis-
 15 regard for the features of a set of objects and our passing over to the formal
 16 features relating the elements of this set to each other. In other words, we
 17 concentrate on the *binding features of the experiential act* rather than on the
 18 'content-relations' of the objects involved. This is a very interesting form of
 19 analysis. It pays attention to the subjective processes involved in the con-
 20 stitution of objectivities, but not all subjective processes involved are
 21 deemed to be conceptually relevant, part of the 'content' of the concept.

22 Furthermore, in PA, Husserl distinguishes clearly between the *psycholo-*
 23 *gical* aspect of a phenomenon and its 'logical signification'. He considers the
 24 situation of reviewing a sequence of four objects (A, B, C, D) where we are
 25 likely to have only D in actual presence and the first three are retained in
 26 some kind of representation. This of course can be reversed and we can run
 27 through the sequence from D to A:

28 The phenomenon is the foundation of the signification, but is not
 29 identical with it. If a totality of objects, A, B, C, D, is in our repre-
 30 sentation, then, in light of the sequential process through which the
 31 total representation originates, perhaps finally only D will be given as a
 32 sense representation, the remaining contents being then given merely as
 33 phantasy representations which are modified temporally and also in
 34 other aspects of their content. If, conversely, we pass from D to A, then
 35 the phenomenon is obviously a different one.

36 (PA, p. 32; Hua XII 31)

37 Husserl argues that the psychological content of this sequence must be
 38 sharply differentiated from its logical meaning which simply is the collection
 39 of objects {A, B, C, D} ignoring the order of encountering them:

1 But the logical signification sets all such distinctions aside. The mod-
 2 ified contents serve as signs, as deputies, for the unmodified ones which
 3 were there. In forming the representation of the totality we do not
 4 attend to the fact that changes in the contents occur as the colligation
 5 progresses. Our aim is to actually maintain them in our grasp and to
 6 unite them. Consequently the *logical content* of that representation is
 7 not, perhaps, D, just-passed C, earlier-passed B, up to A, which is the
 8 most strongly modified. Rather, it is nothing other than (A, B, C, D).
 9 The representation takes in every single one of the contents without
 10 regard to the temporal differences and the temporal order grounded in
 11 those differences.

12 (PA, pp. 32–3; Hua XII 31–2)

13 Husserl concludes on the basis of this analysis that time only plays the
 14 role of a psychological *precondition* for our concepts of number and does
 15 not give us the *logical content* of the concept of number. But, *nota bene*,
 16 what he refers to as the logical content of the concept still involves certain
 17 subjective achievements, and these will be the specific focus of what he later
 18 calls ‘phenomenological’ analysis.

19 These early examples of analysis in PA demonstrate that Husserl is adept
 20 in distinguishing certain psychological features and processes present in our
 21 experience from certain logical elements that must be there. Certain specific
 22 psychological activities (those involving temporal and spatial ordering) play
 23 no role in generating the *concept* of number, but the activity of collective
 24 combination and the isolation of items (regardless of their relational prop-
 25 erties) do play an essential role. What Husserl is doing is making a distinc-
 26 tion between merely attendant psychological features and those that play a
 27 necessary role in the formation of the concept. He is beginning to distin-
 28 guish two senses of conscious activity, one *de facto* and psychological, the
 29 other eidetic and phenomenological (although not yet named expressly as
 30 such).

31 Husserl’s form of analysis needs to distinguish relevant from irrelevant
 32 cognitive acts. As he writes in his discussion of a book by the neo-Kantian
 33 Hans Cornelius:

34 A perilous reef for descriptive analysis is our natural tendency, in the
 35 description of acts which were actually given, to mix in various others
 36 that first occur in reflection after-the-fact upon the earlier psychical
 37 situation.

38 (‘Critical Discussion of Hans Cornelius’, EW, p. 408; Hua XXII 372)

39 Husserl accuses Cornelius of conflating *noticing* with *differentiating*,
 40 whereas he thinks differentiating involves a relating whereas noticing does
 41 not.

1 Furthermore, no amount of attending or noticing turns the perception of
 2 an individual into the apprehension of a universal (EW 413; Hua XXII375–
 3 6).

4 Great care is needed in descriptive analysis.

5 In PA Husserl argues against the property account of numbers that
 6 maintains that number concepts cannot simply be read off groups of enti-
 7 ties. For him, on the contrary, numbers are arrived at in *reflection*:

8 It is impossible to explain the origination of the number concepts in the
 9 same way as, say, that of the concepts *color*, *shape*, etc., which, as posi-
 10 tive Moments in the primary content, are isolated through mere analy-
 11 sis thereof . . . The enumerated contents certainly can be physical as well
 12 as psychical, but the number concepts and the *one* belong exclusively to
 13 the domain of reflexion. And accordingly it is also absurd from the
 14 outset when *Locke* (like so many after him) considers the represented
 15 numbers to be ‘primary qualities’, as perfect copies of original qualities,
 16 which have their subsistence in the things themselves and independently
 17 of our mind.

18 (PA p. 89; Hua XII 85)²¹

19 Husserl again draws attention to the complex and intricate role of *psychic*
 20 *acts* in the formation of the concepts of ‘more’ and ‘less’. To think of one
 21 group of objects as containing *more* than another group, one has simulta-
 22 neously to think of both groups, enumerate their contents and then grasp
 23 the newly collected group as larger than the first collection:

24 Imagine a given group [*Menge*], perhaps of balls. Add, now, one or
 25 several balls to that group. Then we say that the new group has *more*
 26 balls by those added. But if balls are taken away, then we say they are
 27 *less* by those taken away. In this case we are dealing with physical
 28 objects and with a physical operation upon them. But also in cases
 29 where we collectively *think* contents together – and not just external
 30 contents – such an adding to and taking away is present. What is meant
 31 thereby certainly can only be shown and not defined. It is an elemental
 32 fact, to be described in no other way than by reference to the phe-
 33 nomena, that while certain contents are thought ‘together’ by us, still
 34 other contents can then be added and grasped together with the ones
 35 already present. The original act is expanded by the taking in of new
 36 contents.

37 (PA, pp. 95–6; Hua XII 91)

38 Husserl’s point is that these groups have to be brought into a single act of
 39 consciousness:

1 As any relation requires that the terms be together in a single act of
 2 consciousness, so also with our relations of more and of less. It there-
 3 fore presupposes for its realization that the original and the expanded
 4 totality be present to us simultaneously and in *one* act. And even that
 5 does not yet suffice, for the latter totality must even appear as the ‘sum’
 6 of two totalities, one of which is recognized as identical with the origi-
 7 nal totality, while the other represents the totality of the newly added
 8 contents ... Consequently it is a fact that we have the capability of
 9 representing several totalities together as unified into *one* totality, with-
 10 out thereby their separate unifications being lost. We represent totalities
 11 whose elements are in turn totalities. In fact, even totalities of totalities
 12 of totalities are thinkable, etc.

13 (PA, pp. 96–7; XII 91–2)

14 In order to be able to collect groups together, compare them, and think
 15 them together in one act which at the same time does not simply merge the
 16 two groups quickly catapults us into the domain of symbolic thought.
 17 Husserl’s conclusion is that many concepts require mental acts that are
 18 directed on other mental acts. There are ‘*psychical acts of higher order*, i.e.
 19 psychical acts which are directed in turn upon psychical acts and bear upon
 20 primary contents only through mediation of these latter’.

21 Much of the ‘psychological analyses’ of PA, then, consist in identifying
 22 the elaborate network of mental acts required to carry out even simple
 23 arithmetical procedures. Husserl is clear, however, that the psychical acts
 24 must be distinguished from the logical outcomes or results of these opera-
 25 tions. The logical contents have relations of consequence with one another
 26 that hold independently of the constituting activities of subjectivity produ-
 27 cing them. Given the relatively clear manner in which Husserl is able to
 28 distinguish the psychological from the logical in PA, it is quite surprising
 29 that he supposedly fell into the psychologistic trap for which Frege so
 30 roundly chastised him in his famous review of Husserl’s PA.²² Nevertheless,
 31 Husserl, partially in the light of Frege’s criticisms, in LU offered a most
 32 extensive analysis of the ‘countersense’ of psychologism.

33 **6 The phenomenological analysis of logic and epistemology**

34 After PA, Husserl shifted his attention to the foundations of logic and
 35 epistemology. In LU, he is particularly concerned with clarifying the *concept*
 36 of logic, which means bringing the *essence* of logic to evident intuition.
 37 While Husserl was familiar with and admired the technical achievements of
 38 modern mathematical logic (Boole, Schröder *et al.*), he saw it as philoso-
 39 phically naïve and unclarified (Hua XXII 200); the logic of his day was an
 40 inconsistent pot-pourri of different elements:

1 One need only compare the works of Hamilton, Bolzano, Mill and
 2 Beneke. And how the differences have grown since then. Put together
 3 Erdmann and Drobisch, Wundt and Bergmann, Schuppe and Brentano,
 4 Sigwart and Ueberweg, and ask whether one then has a single science,
 5 or only a single name.

6 (LU *Prol.* §13, I, p. 31; XVIII 48)

7 His aim, then, was to sort out what logic as such meant, what belonged
 8 to it as such, to give it a clear determination as a science:

9 Logic accordingly lacks its prime foundation; it lacks a scientifically
 10 strict, phenomenologically clarified distinction of primitive meaning-
 11 elements and structures, and a knowledge of relevant laws of essence.

12 (LU IV §14 n. 3, II, p. 76; Hua XIX/1 350)

13 To overcome this profusion of different theories and methods, and to set
 14 logic on the path of secure science, Husserl proposes reviving 'pure logic',
 15 originally envisaged but propounded in an inadequate way by Kant. This
 16 involved a return to the 'a priori', to Hume's 'relations of ideas' and to
 17 Leibniz (who also stimulated nineteenth-century British mathematical
 18 logic). In fact, Husserl credits *Leibniz* with moving him away from psycho-
 19 logicism around 1895–6 (*Draft Preface*, p. 36; Fink, 128).

20 In LU and elsewhere Husserl defended a very clear conception of logic as
 21 an a priori formal science that dealt in 'tautologies'.

22 Formal logic in the broadest sense (*mathesis universalis*) is the total
 23 range of the purely categorial, i.e. of all laws and theories that stand
 24 free of the sensuous ... It includes not a single existential proposition
 25 about the real world, no single assertion about facts.

26 (EW, p. 211; Hua XXII 166)

27 Husserl thought of purely formal logic as coextensive with mathematics,
 28 it dealt with pure categorial forms (with nothing material admixed). In this
 29 regard, Husserl recognizes that Lotze had already identified mathematics
 30 with logic (LU *Prol.* §45):

31 Lotze taught that mathematics must be regarded as an 'independently
 32 developed branch of general logic' ... mathematics 'has its home-
 33 ground in the general field of logic.

34 (*Logik* 2nd edn §18, 34 and §112, 138) (LU *Prol.* §45, I, p. 108; Hua
 35 XVIII 171)

36 Of course, as Husserl knew well, this had also been Paul Natorp's posi-
 37 tion, and the two had been in correspondence on this issue. So, in this
 38 respect, Husserl is not advancing significantly beyond some neo-Kantians in

1 his analysis of logical concepts, although he does provide far greater detail
2 than they did.

3 However, Husserl never believed pure logic was enough. It needed to be
4 completed by ‘philosophical logic’, or what he would later call (again in
5 Kantian mode) ‘transcendental logic’, the science that linked logic to its
6 object:

7 The critique of knowledge illumines the objective sense of the ‘empty’
8 forms. It constitutes the specifically philosophical task. (EW 215; XXII 170)

9 The point is that knowledge consists of a relation between knower and
10 known. Already in the *Prolegomena* to LU Husserl acknowledges that it is
11 an obvious truism to insist that knowledge consists of a relation to a
12 knower (see also *Erste Philosophie* II, Hua VIII 38). The point is to have the
13 right way of examining the part that is contributed by the knowing subject.
14 Accordingly, in the *Prolegomena*, he distinguishes between subjective con-
15 ditions which are ‘real conditions (*reale Bedingungen*) rooted in the indivi-
16 dual judging subject, or in the various species of judging beings’ from ‘ideal
17 conditions that lie in the form of subjectivity as such’, which he prefers to
18 call ‘noetic conditions’ (LU *Prol.* §32, I, pp. 75–76; Hua XVIII 119). We
19 might want to call these ‘real’ conditions psychological conditions and refer
20 to the *noetic* conditions as those necessary for the formation of the concept.
21 These noetic conditions are what he will call ‘phenomenological’ conditions
22 in the second volume of LU and thereafter. Husserl is on his way to
23 articulate the noematic–noetic correlation central to the mature conception
24 of phenomenological analysis. While one may abstractly and one-sidedly
25 study one or other side of this correlation, the true analysis of knowing
26 requires taking account of the a priori correlation itself. One has to stress,
27 however, that Husserl himself was quite unsure of his emerging method as
28 he wrote LU and that several competing conceptions are at work in that
29 sprawling text.

30 **7 Phenomenology as noetic–noematic analysis**

31 In LU Husserl emphasizes the need to relate the frozen ideal ‘senses’ (*Simne*)
32 back to their origins in acts of cognizing. Later on, in his 1910–11 essay
33 ‘Philosophy as a Rigorous Science’, for instance, he speaks of ‘epistemologi-
34 cal analysis’ and regards its task as the ‘investigation of correlations’.²³
35 The peculiarly phenomenological kind of correlation analysis is driven by
36 the recognition that the dimension of *knowing subjectivity* (*erkennende Sub-*
37 *jektivität*), excluded for reasons of method by the positive sciences, must be
38 restored in any complete account of knowledge. The interconnecting web of
39 human cognitive performances (*Bewusstseinszusammenhang*), the whole
40 architecture of cognizing subjectivity, depends on the essential *correlation*
41 between a knowing subjectivity and an object known. As he later puts it in
42 the *Crisis*:

1 The first breakthrough of this universal a priori of correlation between
 2 experienced object and manners of givenness (which occurred during
 3 my work on the *Logical Investigations* around 1898) affected me so
 4 deeply that my whole subsequent life-work has been dominated by the
 5 task of systematically elaborating on this a priori of correlation.
 6 (Crisis §48, p. 166n; Hua VI 169n)

7 From LU onwards, Husserl's mission was to do justice to what he terms
 8 the essential 'two-sidedness' of knowledge. As he writes in 1910/1911:

9 The field of knowledge is infinite in two directions: on the one hand,
 10 the totality of objects (*der Inbegriff der Gegenstände*) that we call
 11 nature; on the other, the totality of objects that we call consciousness,
 12 *cogitatio*, phenomenological given.
 13 (Hua XIII 172, my translation)

14 In his *Phenomenological Psychology* lectures of 1925, Husserl looks back
 15 on the task and significance of the *Logical Investigations* which he char-
 16 acterizes as follows:

17 In 1900–01 my *Logical Investigations* appeared as the result of ten-year-
 18 long efforts for a clarification (*Klärung*) of the pure idea of logic by a
 19 return to the bestowing of sense (*Sinngebung*) or the performance of
 20 cognition (*Erkenntnisleistung*) which occurs in the nexus of lived
 21 experiences of logical thinking. More accurately speaking, the single
 22 investigations of the second volume [i.e. the Six Investigations them-
 23 selves] involved a turning of intuition back towards the logical lived
 24 experiences which take place in us whenever we think but which we do
 25 not see just then, which we do not have in our noticing view whenever
 26 we carry out thought activity in a naturally original manner. The thin-
 27 ker knows nothing of his lived experiences of thinking (*Denkerlebnissen*)
 28 but only of the thoughts (*Gedanken*) which his thinking engenders con-
 29 tinuously.²⁴

30 The point is, Husserl says, to bring this 'obscurely occurring life of thinking'
 31 into view by reflection 'and to fix it in faithful descriptive concepts (*in*
 32 *getreuen deskriptiven Begriffen zu fixieren*)' (ibid.). It is clear that fixing
 33 concepts in intuition is what Husserl meant by phenomenological analysis.

34 A large part of Husserl's efforts at conceptual clarification involve the
 35 status of ideal objectivities of various kinds. The Second Logical Investiga-
 36 tion is given over to explicating how universals and ideals are intuited
 37 directly. Based on his robust defence of direct intuition of universals, Hus-
 38 serl was seen by his contemporaries as a Platonist. This Platonism consisted
 39 in asserting that ideal entities (ideal *singular* objects such as *the* meaning of
 40 a word, e.g. the word 'lion' in the English language, or the number 2; uni-

1 versals and species, as well as complex combinations known as propositions
 2 and states of affairs, are *objectivities* not given through the senses. They do
 3 not have ‘actual existence’ in some absurd Platonic realm; rather, they have
 4 something like what the neo-Kantians termed ‘validity’ (*Geltung*), a concept
 5 he found in Lotze. In an early essay ‘Intentional Objects’ (c. 1898), Husserl
 6 writes:

7 Truths, propositions and concepts are also objects. Also in their case we
 8 speak of existence (*Existenz*) in the full and authentic sense. But they
 9 are nothing which would be encountered in the domain of the actually
 10 real.

11 (Husserl, EW, p. 366; XXII 326)

12 Husserl struggles with various ways to express the kind of existence
 13 (*Existenz*) attributable to mathematical objects in distinction from the
 14 actual ‘existence’ (*Dasein*) of more mundane temporally located objects.
 15 They are objects because they are unities of meaning, capable of reidentifi-
 16 cation, and bearers of predicates, but they do not have temporal duration.
 17 In fact, Husserl never changes his view of the ideal self-identity of mathe-
 18 matical objects. In his Introduction to *Logic and Theory of Knowledge* lec-
 19 tures of 1906/7, for instance, he claims:

20 Numbers are not objects in nature (*Naturobjekte*). The number series is
 21 a world of genuine objectivities – *ideal* not *real* objectivities. The
 22 number 2 is no thing (*Ding*), no natural process, it is not located in
 23 space or time. It is certainly not an object of possible perception or of
 24 possible ‘experience’. Two apples appear and disappear, have local and
 25 temporal situation, but when the apples are eaten up, the number 2 is
 26 not eaten up, the number series has not suddenly developed a lacuna, as
 27 if we now had to count 1, 3, 4 . . . ²⁵

28 Husserl is seeking to clarify the *sense* of number, i.e. what number essen-
 29 tially is:

30 It belongs to the sense of the term ‘cardinal number’ that each number
 31 may be augmented by a unity. To say that a cardinal number, a quan-
 32 tity, cannot be augmented, means one does not know what one is talk-
 33 ing about, it also means to enter into a conflict with the sense, the
 34 identical sense of the expression ‘cardinal number’.

35 (Hua XXIV 49, my translation)

36 Husserl concludes:

37 The world of mathematics and of pure logic is a world of ideal objects,
 38 a world of ‘concepts’, as one has become used to saying. Every truth

1 here is nothing other than an analysis of essence or concept, what is
 2 necessitated by the concepts and is indissociable from their content,
 3 from their sense, becomes known and established. One also designates
 4 this distinction as that between a priori and a posteriori. Pure mathe-
 5 matics is an a priori discipline, every natural science is an a posteriori
 6 discipline.

7 (XXIV 50, my translation)

8 For Husserl, there are different kinds of ideal objects that need to be
 9 disambiguated. Not every ideal object is an essence or a species. An essence
 10 is something that is capable of instantiation. If an ideal object has possible
 11 instances it is an essence or a species. Essences and species are named by a
 12 peculiar type of singular term. Examples of such singular terms are 'red'
 13 and 'the tone C'.

14 Husserl's careful distinction between objects that have (repeatably iden-
 15 tical) instantiations and objects (such as hammers) which can have different
 16 exemplars is repeated in *The Origin of Geometry* fragment (*Crisis*, pp. 353–
 17 78; VI 365–86). Here *ideality* is construed in terms of its availability for
 18 everyone in repeated access as the identical same. Of course, an ideal entity
 19 (e.g. a geometrical proposition) needs to be *discovered* or *disclosed* in act of
 20 primal foundation (*Urstiftung*), but it belongs to its nature as ideal to have
 21 an intrinsic essential 'repeatability' (*Wiederholbarkeit*, Hua VI 368) as the
 22 'identically same' (*Crisis*, p. 357; Hua VI 368). Whereas a tool such as a
 23 hammer can have many repeatable 'exemplars', an ideal entity like the
 24 Pythagorean theorem is the *same identical* thing in each of its repetitions.
 25 This is the essential distinction between the mode of being (*Seinsart*) of the
 26 ideal (mathematical, semantic, scientific theoretical, etc.) as opposed to the
 27 mode of being of cultural constructions (hammers) and natural entities. For
 28 an ideal entity of the mathematical kind to be accessed in memory is exactly
 29 the same as for it now to be intuitively perceived. Its repeatability is always
 30 'coincidence of identity' (*Identitätsdeckung*, *Crisis*, p. 360; VI 370). Phe-
 31 nomenology, then, articulates the different manners of givenness of different
 32 kinds of entity; and givenness is always *givenness-to*. Phenomenological
 33 description is a kind of reflective analysis that highlights this essential
 34 relatedness between subject and object.

35 8 Phenomenological eidetic description and language

36 Finally, let us address the complex issue of the relation of concept analysis
 37 to the analysis of language in Husserl. As we have seen, as specified in LU,
 38 phenomenology is a metaphysically neutral, presuppositionless clarification
 39 that aims to exhibit, with 'clarity and distinctness' conceptual contents and
 40 their connections with other concepts. This clarification of concepts is
 41 achieved, not by linguistic discussions, but by tracing back the *concepts* to
 42 their 'origin' in intuition. It is not a matter of clarifying the ordinary lan-

1 objects to always reveal themselves in profiles or 'adumbrations' (*Abschattungen*). A table can only be *seen* from one point of view, one position, and
 2 so on. In fact, every material thing unveils itself in endless spatial profiles.
 3 No act of perceiving a physical object can present all sides at once, or all
 4 perspectives. Even God can only grasp a physical thing in profiles (*Ideas* I
 5 §149, p. 362; Hua III/1 315). There is therefore no 'God's eye' view possible
 6 because such an aperspectival view would contradict the essence of the
 7 object's self-revealing. Husserl frequently announces this insight as having
 8 the status of an a priori eidetic law: 'even the most intuitively vivid and rich
 9 presentation of a real thing must be in principle one-sided and incomplete'
 10 (LU IV §3, II, p. 52; Hua XIX/1 307). Not even God can alter this eidetic
 11 truth, Husserl frequently attests (see Hua XVI 65). According to Husserl,
 12 moreover, it is neither an accident nor purely a feature of human constitution
 13 that a spatial thing can only appear in profiles (*Ideas* I §42), it belongs
 14 to the *essence* of the spatial object itself.
 15

16 Husserl's mature writings are replete with this kind of 'eidetic' analysis.
 17 Such analysis is always structured in terms of both a noetic and a noematic
 18 dimension. In other words, Husserl's mature conception of phenomenological
 19 analysis always sees the objective as constituted through subjective
 20 achievement. Moreover, phenomenological analysis must be sharply distinguished
 21 from psychological analysis. Husserl wants to find a new level of
 22 description, one whereby objects are always described with attention to the
 23 subjective acts and overall attitudes in which they come to manifestation.
 24 This *Bewusstseinsanalyse* is one of the crowning achievements of Husserl's
 25 phenomenology.

26 Notes

- 27 1 E. Husserl, *Logische Untersuchungen*, 2 Bände (Halle: Max Niemeyer, 1900–1;
 28 2nd revised edn 1913). The critical edition is published in the Husserliana series
 29 in two volumes: Volume XVIII, *Logische Untersuchungen*. Erster Band: *Prolegomena zur reinen Logik*, hrsg. Elmar Holenstein (The Hague: Nijhoff, 1975), and
 30 Volume XIX, *Logische Untersuchungen*. Zweiter Band: *Untersuchungen zur Phänomenologie und Theorie der Erkenntnis*, in zwei Bänden, hrsg. Ursula Panzer
 31 (Dordrecht: Kluwer, 1984). The English translation is Edmund Husserl, *Logical Investigations*, 2 vols, trans. J.N. Findlay, revised by Dermot Moran (London/
 32 New York: Routledge, 2001) which translates the 2nd edn. Hereafter, the *Investigations* will be cited as 'LU' followed by the relevant Investigation number,
 33 paragraph number, volume number (in bold) and page number in the English
 34 translation, and volume number and page number of the Husserliana (hereafter
 35 abbreviated to 'Hua') edition of the German text. The current quotation therefore is LU IV, II, p. 76; Hua XIX/1 350.
 36
 37 2 In the Sixth Logical Investigation Husserl rejects the view that genuine problems
 38 can be solved by merely reviewing historical 'philosophemes' (his term for typical
 39 philosophical routines, see LU VI Intro., XIX/2 543) and much later he laments
 40 that the history of philosophy has been substituted for genuine philosophy, see E.
 41 Husserl, *The Crisis of European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology*. An
 42
 43
 44
 45

- 1 *Introduction to Phenomenological Philosophy*, trans. David Carr (Evanston:
2 Northwestern University Press, 1970), §56, p. 196; Hua VI 199. Hereafter ‘*Crisis*’.
- 3 3 For more on this topic see Dermot Moran, *Edmund Husserl. Founder of Phe-*
4 *nomenology* (Cambridge: Polity, 2005).
- 5 4 E. Husserl, *Philosophie der Arithmetik*, edited Lothar Eley, Hua XII (Dordrecht:
6 Kluwer, 1970), trans. Dallas Willard, *Philosophy of Arithmetic* (Dordrecht:
7 Kluwer, 2003). Hereafter ‘PA’ followed by pagination of English translation and
8 Husserliana volume and page number.
- 9 5 E. Husserl, *Introduction to the Logical Investigations. Draft of a Preface to the*
10 *Logical Investigations*, ed. E. Fink, trans. P.J. Bossert and C.H. Peters (The
11 Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1975), p. 29; E. Husserl, ‘Entwurf einer “Vorrede” zu
- 12 *den Logischen Untersuchungen*’ (1913), hrsg. Eugen Fink, *Tijdschrift voor Filoso-*
13 *fie*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (February 1939), pp. 107–33 and No. 2 (May 1939), pp. 319–39.
14 The reference here is to Vol. 1, p. 122. Hereafter ‘*Draft Preface*’ followed by
15 pagination of English translation and German original (designated as ‘Fink’).
- 16 6 In *Ideas pertaining to a Pure Phenomenology and to a Phenomenological Philoso-*
17 *phy, First Book*, trans. F. Kersten (Dordrecht: Kluwer, 1983), §84, p. 202; Hua III/
18 I 170, for instance, Husserl states that, in certain areas, ‘clarity does not exclude
19 a certain halo of indeterminateness’. Hereafter ‘*Ideas I*’.
- 20 7 E. Husserl, *Early Writings in the Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics*, trans.
21 Dallas Willard, *Collected Works V* (Dordrecht: Kluwer, 1994), p. 213; Husserli-
22 ana XXII 169. Hereafter ‘EW’ followed by the page number and the volume and
23 page number of the Husserliana edition.
- 24 8 Husserl often invokes Descartes’ twin criteria of truth, namely, ‘clarity and dis-
- 25 *tinctness*’ (Hua XIX/1 10) in our concepts.
- 26 9 One cannot get by with insisting on definitions in the absence of intuitions,
27 Husserl maintains in *Ideas I* (III/1 171).
- 28 10 E. Husserl, *Formale und transzendente Logik. Versuch einer Kritik der logischen*
29 *Vernunft. Mit ergänzenden Texten*, hrsg. Paul Janssen, Hua XVII (The Hague:
30 Martinus Nijhoff, 1974), p. 13; *Formal and Transcendental Logic*, trans. D. Cairns
31 (The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1969), p. 9. Hereafter ‘FTL’ followed by page
32 number of the English translation and volume number and page of the German
33 Husserliana edition.
- 34 11 Christoph Sigwart, *Logic*, 2 vols, trans. Helen Dendy (London/New York: Swan
35 Sonnenschein/Macmillan, 1895), Vol. 1, p. ix.
- 36 12 E. Husserl, *Ideas I*, §19, p. 35; Hua III/I 35.
- 37 13 *Ideas I*, §19, p. 35; Hua III/I 34.
- 38 14 J. Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, ed. M. Cranston (London
39 and New York: Collier Books, 1965), Book Two, ch. IV, p. 73.
- 40 15 *Ideas I*, §20, p. 38; Hua III/I 38.
- 41 16 LU, *Prol.* §26, I, p. 60; Hua XVIII A85.
- 42 17 LU, *Prol.* §26, I, p. 60; Hua XVIII A85.
- 43 18 Incidentally, Husserl in part absolves his hero Hume of such an absurd radical
44 empiricism; he sees Hume rather as a ‘moderate empiricist’ who retained logic
45 and mathematics and gave them a priori justification, but who still thinks med-
46 iate inferences have only a *psychological* explanation and no rational justification
47 (LU *Prol.* §26, I, p. 60; Hua XVIII A86).
- 48 19 E. Husserl, ‘Philosophy as a Rigorous Science,’ trans. M. Brainard, *New Year-*
49 *book for Phenomenology and Phenomenological Philosophy II* (2002), pp. 249–95;
50 originally *Logos. Internationale Zeitschrift für Philosophie und Kultur* 1 (1910–
51 1911), pp. 289–341 (reprinted in Husserliana, vol. XXV). Hereafter ‘PRS’ with
52 Brainard pagination, followed by German pagination of original. The reference
53 here is to Brainard, p. 260; *Logos*, p. 301.

- 1 20 Gottlob Frege, 'Rezension von: E.G. Husserl, *Philosophie der Arithmetik I*,
2 *Zeitschrift für Philosophie und philosophische Kritik* (1894), pp. 313–32, reprinted
3 in Frege, *Kleine Schriften* ed. I. Angelelli (Hildesheim: Georg Olms, 1967), pp.
4 179–92, trans. E.W. Kluge, 'Review of Dr E. Husserl's *Philosophy of Arithmetic*,
5 in *Husserl. Expositions and Appraisals*, ed. F. Elliston and P. McCormick (Notre
6 Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1977), pp. 314–24. The phrase in ques-
7 tion appears on p. 315 of the English translation.
- 8 21 It is important to recognize that Husserl is not offering an account of number
9 whereby it is a property of a group. Herman Philipse is therefore incorrect when
10 he attributes to Husserl a 'Lockean theory' of number, see H. Philipse, 'Edmund
11 Husserl and the Theory of Classical Foundationalism' in Richard Feist (ed.)
12 *Husserl and the Sciences. Selected Perspectives* (Ottawa: University of Ottawa
13 Press, 2004), p. 31.
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