

PREFACE

This volume is one of a series of five volumes that go back to the Third Conference of Phenomenology organized under the auspices of the Organization of Phenomenological Organizations (O.P.O.). This conference took place in December, 2008 in Hong Kong under the leadership of the Department of Philosophy at the Chinese University. The meeting in Hong Kong was the third in a series that began with a foundational meeting in Prague 2002, followed by a second meeting in Lima in 2005. The Fourth OPO conference is planned for Segovia in September 2011. O.P.O. recognizes five regions of the world, and the assembled essays developed from the Hong Kong conference in 2008 are divided according to these five regions: Asia-Pacific, Euro-Mediterranean, Latin-America, North America, and Northern Europe.

The present volume comprises articles from Northern Europe. It contains not only texts of papers that were presented at the conference in Hong Kong but has now been enlarged by a lot of further articles. They all mirror central topics of contemporary phenomenological work done in countries of Northern Europe. The reader will find 22 articles written by authors who represent 12 nations: Ireland, United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland, The Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, and Russia.

The first part of this collection presents articles about central themes of European phenomenology—developed by positions from Husserl, Scheler, Heidegger, Fink, Stein, Merleau-Ponty, Ricœur, Beauvoir, Derrida, Henry, and Patočka—, while the second part first of all deals with phenomenological problems, specifi-

cally with a phenomenology of borderline situations like experiences of pain and insanity, but also with so “normal” phenomena like the acoustic volume of sound, further with topics of painting and photography, and with a philosophic-mathematical question in the end. On the whole, this collection provides evidence for a main tendency in contemporary phenomenology, as it is the phenomenological research on structures of the living human body including such problems like birth, love, and pain. At the same time, the articles are documents manifesting a phenomenological crossing over borders: they force a confrontation between different phenomenological positions and engage with other philosophies on the basis of phenomenological points of view, and they apply phenomenological analyses to other disciplines such as psychopathology and aesthetics. Finally, the border itself becomes a topic: in the shape of the ultimate of the absolutely infinite in the closing article of this book.

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