

Call for Abstracts (2nd call)

PHENOMENOLOGY TODAY

19–24 July 2026

Monte Verità
Congress Centre Stefano Franscini
Ascona (TI)

About the Conference

This conference aims to explore phenomenology's identity and vitality in the 21st-century. Phenomenology has long been regarded as one of the central legacies of 20th-century philosophy, but its historical development and ongoing diversification have rendered its unity increasingly opaque. While phenomenology emerged as a rigorous method for describing conscious experience, it has continuously evolved through dialogue with other philosophical traditions, empirical sciences, and socio-political movements. Its resulting pluralism raises a fundamental question: **what, if anything, still unites phenomenology today?**

This question raises two sets of issues. The **first** is **historical**: how should phenomenology be defined and reconstructed as a tradition? Is it best understood as a movement anchored in key figures such as Brentano, Husserl, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, and Stein or rather as a set of methodological commitments that continue to animate contemporary thought?

The **second** set of issues is **systematic**. It asks in which philosophical domains the phenomenological tradition continues to offer distinctive insights, and what problems it is uniquely positioned to illuminate. While phenomenology originated in the analysis of consciousness and intentionality, it now addresses a wide range of questions concerning linguistic, social, moral, and political life. The conference will examine how phenomenological approaches shed light on philosophical problems while engaging not only with other traditions within philosophy, e.g., analytic philosophy or (post)-critical traditions, but also with other academic disciplines.

Accordingly, the meeting will foreground a series of core themes that exemplify phenomenology's continuing relevance as a philosophical approach. These include its contributions to the philosophy of mind, epistemology, value theory, political and social philosophy, psychopathology, and metaphysics. By situating phenomenology within this constellation of philosophical subfields and key substantive questions, the conference aims to underscore its ongoing significance.

Contributed Talks

Contributed talks may be on any topic related to phenomenology. They should aim at clarifying what phenomenology is, articulating the contributions it can offer to philosophy and other disciplines, and assessing its past, present, and future.

Contributed talks will be 45 minutes in length (incl. Q&A) and will run in parallel sessions. The conference will feature a number of invited contributions, including presentations by the plenary speakers listed below.

Venue and Schedule

The conference will take place at the Congressi Stefano Franscini at Monte Verità in Ascona, a historically significant site that has long been associated with avant-garde art, political

movements, and the humanities (for more information on the venue, see www.monteverita.org).

The conference is conceived as a five-day residential meeting held from Monday, July 20, to Friday, July 24, with participants arriving in Ascona on Sunday the 19th and departing on Friday the 24th.

A doctoral school in phenomenology will run in parallel at the same venue and on the same dates, organised by the Western Switzerland University Conference.

Costs

There are no registration fees for the event. However, the cost of full board at Monte Verità is 225 CHF per day (approximately 250 EUR). Arrival on the 19th of July and departure on the 24th correspond to a 5-day full-board stay.

Depending on the availability of funds, some applicants may receive partial reimbursement of their expenses. Further information will be provided upon acceptance of submissions.

Submission

Please submit the following documents to hannah.kirchner@unige.ch by **28 February 2026**:

- Anonymised **abstract of up to 600 words**
- **Cover letter** indicating position, institutional affiliation, e-mail address, and the possibility of covering part (or all) of the fees (see details above)

All submissions will undergo double-blind peer review. Please note that the number of available slots for selected speakers is limited, and that the rejection rate is therefore expected to be higher than usual for conferences of this kind.

Decisions will be communicated by the end of March.

Plenary Speakers

Nicolas De Warren (Pennsylvania State University)

Thomas Fuchs (University of Heidelberg)

Sara Heinämaa (University of Jyväskylä)

Michelle Montague (University of Texas at Austin)

Kevin Mulligan (University of Geneva)

Hans Bernhard Schmid (University of Vienna)

Amie Thomasson (Dartmouth College)

Invited Speakers

Alia Al-Saji (McGill)

Thomas Bedorf (FernUniversität Hagen)

Anna Bortolan (Swansea University)

Arnaud Dewalque (University of Liège)

Anthony Fernandez (University of Southern Denmark)

Hanne Jacobs (Tilburg University)

Julia Jansen (KU Leuven)

Felipe León (University of Lisbon)

Dermot Moran (Boston College)

Komarine Romdenh-Romluc (University of Sheffield)

Matthias Schlossberger (European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder))

Denis Seron (University of Liège)

Gianfrano Soldati (University of Fribourg)

Jing Shang (Tongji University)

Michela Summa (University of Würzburg)
Ruth Rebecca Tietjen (Tilburg University)
Genki Uemura (Okayama University)

Organising Team

Guillaume Fréchette (University of Geneva), main organiser
Marta Jorba (University Pompeu Fabra)
Alessandro Salice (University College Cork)
Hamid Taieb (Humboldt University Berlin)
Ingrid Vendrell Ferran (University of Marburg)

For more information:

<https://www.unige.ch/lettres/philo/recherche/inbegriff/phenotoday>

A note on travel arrangements

We are aware of scams targeting participants of scientific conferences, where scammers pose as representatives of travel agencies allegedly appointed by the conference organisers. Please do not respond to these messages. If you have any doubts or concerns, directly contact the organisers.