

Is IPA phenomenology?

What are the traits of
phenomenological research?

Can IPA research tell us
something about the
phenomenon itself?

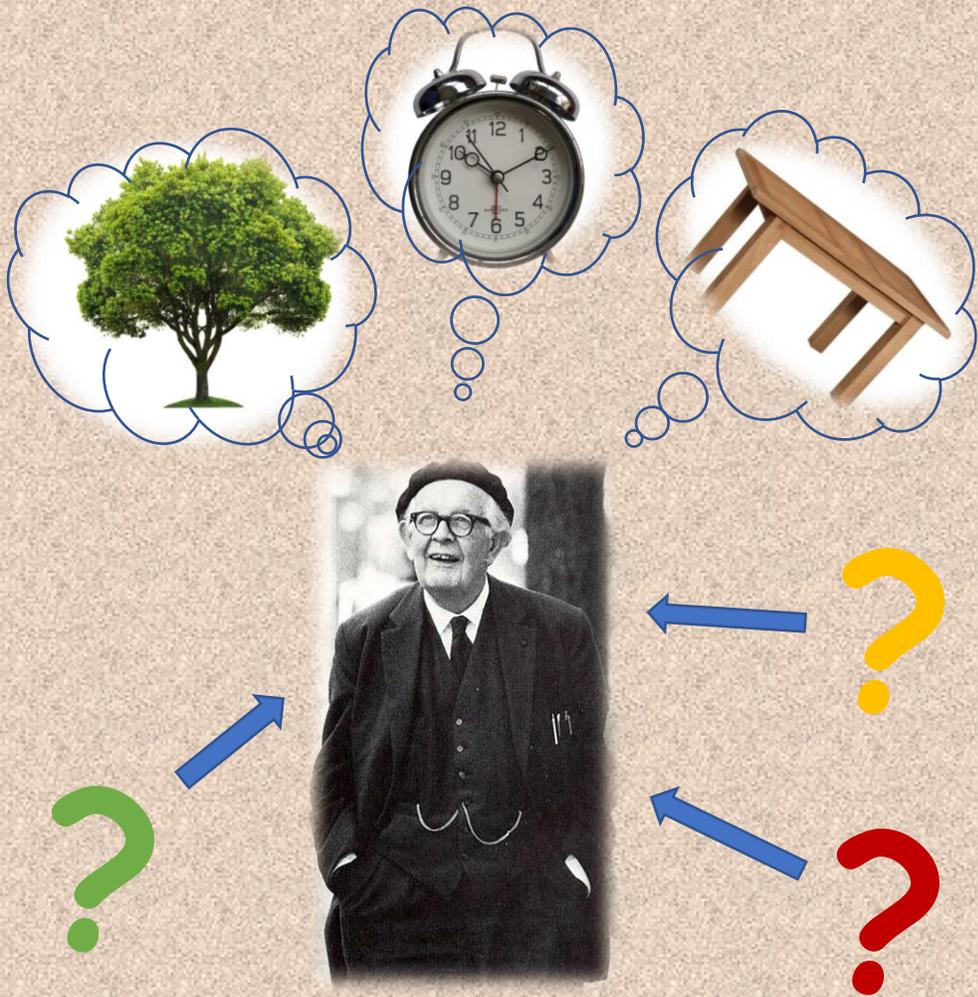


“Objective“ reality

Constructivist paradigm: We can only access reality as something that has gone through our cognitive activity and experience.

X

Phenomenology: Our reality reached through lived experience is valid; we acknowledge the complex relationship between the observer and the phenomenon (**lived experience**)



Intentionality

Our consciousness is always related to an object.

= when we are conscious, we are always conscious **OF** something

by Giorgi



What are we interested in?

The essence of the phenomenon

How do we define/capture XY as lived through by a participant?

– phenomenon accessed through the lifeworld of the participant

< having more participants is useful, because it's easier to see the common traits of the phenomenon (as opposed to the individual differences)

X

Lived experience

What does XY look/feel like for participants who lived through it?

– participant's narrative and perspective

– Idiographic approach: how participants experience the phenomenon rather than the essence of the phenomenon itself

< applicable to case studies

IPA **is** phenomenological

Phenomenological approach traits by Giorgi:

- is rigorously descriptive
- uses the phenomenological reductions (bracketing)
- explores the intentional relationship between persons and situations
- discloses the essences /structures of meaning in human experiences

Phenomenological research

according to Finley (2012)

Research is phenomenological when:

- It involves rich description of the lifeworld or lived experience
- The researcher has adopted a special, open phenomenological attitude and does not import external concepts (at least initially)
- The researcher sets aside judgements about the realness of the phenomenon

...in IPA:

- IPA is initially focused on interpreting how things appear in our lifeworld rather than knowledge of the essence of things themselves.
- However, it reaches to the essence of phenomena through capturing their varied meanings.

IPA = applied phenomenology?

IPA is not phenomenology

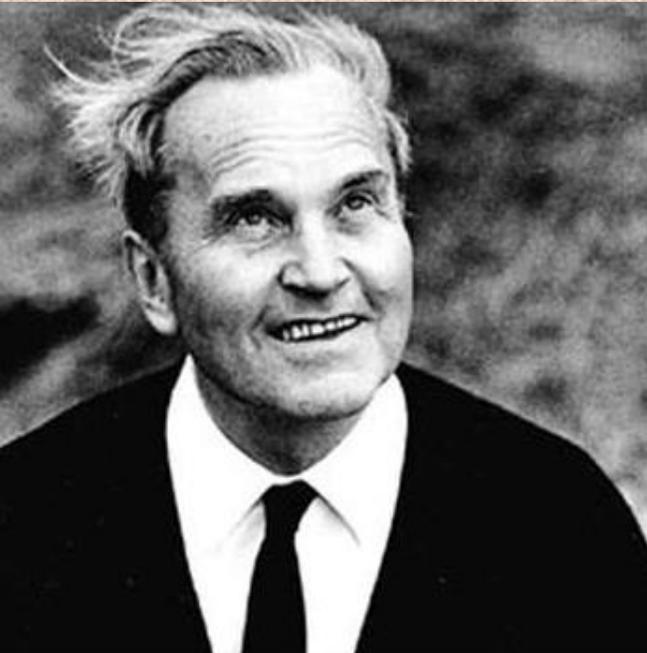
- Is the product of the analysis a „phenomenology“ of the research subject?
- **Triple hermeneutics**
 - the initial experience belongs to the participant, not the researcher
 - the analysis is performed not on the phenomenon, but on the data (which is itself a phenomenon)
 - participant is not a researcher or a philosopher and their perspective is subjective
- **Perfect bracketing is impossible:** understanding participants' experience is only possible through one's own experience

Conclusion

Phenomenological research is „practicing phenomenologically based empirical work as distinct from engaging a philosophical reflection on *things in their appearing* in the philosophical sense“.

Finlay, 2012

We are not philosophers, but we can still follow the paradigm.



Thank you!

Quantitative Methods



Qualitative Methods

