

## **Phenomenology of UAP II: Intersubjectivity**

Kimberly S. Engels

April 22-June 10, 2025

Tuesdays, 6pm-9pm

This course will focus on using the phenomenological method, founded by Edmund Husserl but developed further by other thinkers, to explore the role of intersubjectivity in the study of UAP. It is suitable as a sequel to those who have taken Phenomenology of UAP I, or as a standalone course. The phenomenological method takes the lived world of conscious experience as the starting point of inquiry, rather than the third-person observability approach taken by the natural sciences. The encounter with another consciousness, or an Other, has been explored by all phenomenological thinkers, as the encountering of another consciousness has profound phenomenological and epistemological import. This course will begin by exploring what it looks like to posit intersubjectivity as an epistemic virtue as opposed to objectivity, and the role of intersubjectivity in the human understanding of UAP witness reports. Next, we explore the question of what it means to consider encounters with UAP and non-human intelligences (NHI) as intersubjective experiences. Through accounts of intersubjectivity given to us by Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger, Jean-Paul Sartre, Julia Kristeva, Emmanuel Levinas, and Jean-Luc Marion, we will explore the conceptual tensions and phenomenological possibilities that emerge from our encounter with human others as well as with the Unidentified, Unacknowledged Other. This course will also feature UAP Studies literature from scholars such as Jacques Vallee, John E. Mack, James Madden and Diana Pasulka, and Dr. Engels' own work, as well as experiencers such as Whitley Strieber, Yossi Ronan, and Matthew Roberts.

### **Week 1: Introduction to Phenomenology**

Readings:

Edmund Husserl, "Exposition of the problem of science of the lifeworld"

"The Crisis of the Sciences as Expression of the Radical Life-Crisis of European Humanity"

Kimberly Engels, "The Importance of Phenomenology as a Method for UAP Studies"

### **Week 2: Intersubjectivity as an Epistemic Virtue**

Readings:

Robert Sokolowski, "Intersubjectivity and the Lifeworld"

Lorraine Daston and Peter Galison, “Mechanical Objectivity”

### **Week 3: Husserl and Intersubjectivity: Empathy**

Readings:

Edmund Husserl, *Cartesian Meditations*, “Fifth Meditation”

John Mack, *Abduction*, “A Being of Light”

### **Week 4: Close Encounters and Sartre’s Account of the Other**

Readings:

Michael Masters, “Case Study 6: Travis Walton”

Jean Paul Sartre, “The Body for Others” and “Concrete Encounters with Others”

### **Week 5: Face to Face Encounters: Emmanuel Levinas**

Readings:

Emmanuel Levinas, “The Face to Face: An Irreducible Relation” and “Ethics and the Face”

John E. Mack, “Relationships: Contact through the Eyes.”

### **Week 6: The Intersubjective and Abjection**

Readings:

Julia Kristeva, *Powers of Horror*, “Approaching Abjection”

Matthew Roberts, Excerpts from *Initiated*

Kimberly Engels, “The Unacknowledged Other: Sartrean Phenomenology and Encounters with an NHI”

### **Week 7: UAP Encounters as Saturated Phenomena**

Readings:

Jean Luc Marion, from *Being Given*, “Sketch of the Saturated Phenomena” and “To Receive Oneself from what Gives Itself”

Yossi Ronan, “First Contact”

Kimberly Engels, “2023 Experiencer Study”

**Week 8: Heidegger, Technology, Relation to Nature**

Readings:

Martin Heidegger, “The Question Concerning Technology”

James Madden, “Apocalyptic Philosophizing: Jacques Vallee as the Oppenheimer of the Digital Age”

Diana Pasulka, “A Tour of Silicon Valley with Jacques Vallee”