

# D. R. KOUKAL

## Education

### Areas of Specialization and Competence

#### Professional Experience

#### Professional Publications

#### Book Reviews

#### Other Publications

#### Professional Presentations

#### Other Professional Activities

#### Awards and Honors

#### Languages

#### Dissertation Abstract

### Professional Memberships and References

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## Education

### Duquesne University Pittsburgh, PA

- Ph.D. in Philosophy (December 1999).
- Master of Arts in Philosophy (December 1997).
- Dissertation: *The Question of Expression: Toward a Phenomenological Rhetoric.*

### Shimer College Waukegan, IL

- Bachelor of Arts in General Studies with Distinction (May 1990).
- Senior thesis: *A Philosophy of Dialogue.*

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## Areas of Specialization

- Phenomenology (Husserl, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty)
- Phenomenologies of expression, media, and lived space
- Political and Social Philosophy (Contract Theory and Marxism)

## Areas of Competence

- History of Philosophy
- Ethics

- Applied Ethics (Business and Biomedical)
  - Introductory Logic
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## Professional Experience

### Fall 2000-present

- **University of Detroit Mercy (Detroit, MI).**  
Associate Professor of Philosophy (Fall 2004 - present).  
Director, **University Honors Program** (Fall 2001 - present).  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy (Fall 2000 - Fall 2004).

**Courses:**

*Contemporary Continental Philosophy*  
*Ethics*  
*Introduction to Existentialism*  
*Introduction to Philosophy*  
*Locke and Mill*  
*Person and Society*  
*Phenomenology and Architecture*  
*Social and Political Philosophy*  
*Topics in Critical Thinking: Media*  
*Topics in Philosophy: Appearance and Reality*  
*Topics in Philosophy: Friendship*  
*Topics in Philosophy: The Good Life*

**Directed Readings:**

*Dwelling: Heidegger and Norberg-Schulz*  
*Existentialism*  
*Heidegger: Being and Time*  
*Husserl*  
*Nietzsche*  
*Phenomenology of Place*  
*Postmodernism*

### 1998-2000

- **Rollins College (Winter Park, FL).**  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Adjunct Instructor.

**Courses:**

*Business Ethics*  
*Ethics*  
*Introduction to Philosophy*  
*Philosophy of Education*  
*Topics in Ethics (Friendship)*

### 1998-1999

- **University of Central Florida (Orlando, FL).**  
Adjunct Instructor.

**Courses:**

*Introduction to Philosophy*

### 1997-1998

- **Daytona Beach Community College (Daytona Beach, FL).**  
Adjunct Instructor.

**Courses:**

*Philosophy I*

### 1996-1997

- **Carlow College (Pittsburgh, PA).**  
Adjunct Instructor.

**Courses:**  
***Biomedical Ethics***

1995-1996

- **Robert Morris College** (Pittsburgh, PA).  
Adjunct Instructor.

**Courses:**  
***Business Ethics***

1993-1997

- **Duquesne University** (Pittsburgh, PA).  
Adjunct Instructor, Teaching Assistant, Graduate Assistant.

**Courses:**  
***Basic Philosophical Questions***  
***Introductory Logic***  
***Philosophy of Sexuality***

**Summary of Quantitative Student Evaluations at Duquesne University**

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## Professional Publications

- "The Necessity of Communicating Phenomenological Insights--and its Difficulties"  
*Studia Phaenomenologica* (forthcoming).
  - "The Mortal God to Which We Owe Our Peace and Defense"  
Contribution to *Philosophical Perspectives on the War on Terrorism*. Edited by Gail M. Presbey. Editions Rodopi, 2007.
  - "Detroit Detritus"  
*Dichotomy: A Student Publication of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture* 16 (Fall 2006).
  - "Speaking to the World Through Husserl and Merleau-Ponty"  
Contribution to *Issues in Interpretation Theory*. Edited by Pol Vandeveld. Marquette University Press, 2006.
  - "Cellular Irruptions"  
*Glimpse: The Journal of the Society for Phenomenology and Media* 5/1 (Fall 2004).
  - "9/11/01 and the Pull of History"  
*Glimpse: The Journal of the Society for Phenomenology and Media* 4/1 (Fall 2003).
  - "Dwelling in the Classroom: A Phenomenology of Distance Learning"  
*The Journal of Teaching in Marriage and Family: Innovations in Family Science Education* Volume 2, Issue 1 (July 2002).  
Primary author, with Libby Balter Blume of University of Detroit Mercy and Thomas W. Blume of Oakland University.
  - "The Question Concerning Virtual Community"  
*Glimpse: The Journal of the Society for Phenomenology and Media* 3/1 (Fall 2001).
  - "Sartre/Réage"  
*Mosaic: A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature* (September 2001).
  - "The Rhetorical Impulse in Husserl's Phenomenology"  
*Continental Philosophy Review* (formerly *Man and World*) 34/1 (March 2001).
  - "Merleau-Ponty's Reform of Saussure: Linguistic Innovation and the Practice of Phenomenology"  
*Southern Journal of Philosophy* 38/4 (December 2000).
  - "Discrete Environments: Those Which Do Not Dwell"  
*International Studies in Philosophy* 28/2 (1996).
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## Book Reviews

- *Encyclopedia of Science, Technology, and Ethics*. Edited by Carl Mitcham. Farmington Hills, MI: Thomson Gale, 2005.  
*Technology and Culture* (July 2007).

- *Living in the Labyrinth of Technology*. By Willem H. Vanderburg. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005. *Technology and Culture* (October 2006).
- *American Philosophy of Technology: The Empirical Turn*. Edited by Hans Achterhuis. Translated by Robert P. Crease. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2001. *Technology and Culture* (January 2003).
- *Bodies in Technology*. By Don Ihde. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2002. *Technology and Culture* (October 2002).
- *The Fundamental Concepts of Metaphysics: World, Finitude, Solitude*. By Martin Heidegger. Translated by William McNeill and Nicholas Walker. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1995. *The Review of Metaphysics* (March 2002).
- *Technology and the Good Life?* Edited by Eric Higgs, Andrew Light, and David Strong. University of Chicago Press, 2000 and *Holding On to Reality: The Nature of Information at the Turn of the Millenium*. By Albert Borgmann. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999. *Technology and Culture* (October 2001).
- *The Robot in the Garden: Telerobotics and Telepistemology in the Age of the Internet*. Edited by Ken Goldberg. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2000. *Technology and Culture* (July 2001).

## Other Publications

- "Logic Will Save Our Students From the Media"  
*Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education* 32 (Fall 2007).

## Professional Presentations

- "Torture"  
Presented to the Society for Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture, University of Saskatchewan, (Saskatoon, Canada), May 29-31, 2007.
- "The Necessity of Communicating Phenomenological Insights--and its Difficulties"  
Presented at the Husserl-Archives, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Leuven, Belgium), November 24, 2006.
- "Sartre and Sontag on the Torture of Images"  
Presented to the Thirtieth Anniversary Conference of the International Association for Philosophy and Literature, Albert-Ludwigs Universitat (Freiburg, Germany), June 5-10, 2006.
- "Here I Stand: Spaces and Bodies in Political Dissent"  
Presented to the Society for Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture, York University (Toronto, Canada), May 27-29, 2006.
- "Photography, Media and Ontological Assault"  
Presented to the Society for Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture, University of Western Ontario (London, Canada), May 28-30, 2005.
- "Dwelling in the Classroom/Learning at a Distance: A Heideggerian Investigation of Distance Learning"  
Presented to the Seventh Annual Conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Media, Western Oregon University (Monmouth, OR), May 12-14, 2005.
- "Looking at the Other at Abu Ghraib"  
Presented to the Concerned Philosophers for Peace at the American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting (Boston, MA), December 27, 2004.
- "Phenomenology is Not Just Intuition But Also Expression"  
Presented to the Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the International Merleau-Ponty Circle: "Expression, Language, Art," Muhlenberg College (Allentown, PA), September 30-October 2, 2004.
- "Incredulity, Stupefaction, 9/11"  
Presented to the Sixth Annual Conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Media, Brigham Young University (Provo, UT), May 5-8, 2004.
- "Locke contra Capital!"  
Presented to the Fourteenth Annual Philosophy, Interpretation and Culture Conference, Binghamton University (Binghamton, NY), April 16-17, 2004.
- "Master of All and Subject to None"  
Presented to a conference on "Empire and Imperial Cultures," California State University-Stanislaus (Turlock, CA),

February 27-28, 2004.

- "The Mortal God to Which We Owe Our Peace and Defense"  
Presented at the Sixteenth Annual Conference of the Concerned Philosophers for Peace, Pacific University (Forest Grove, Oregon), October 23-26, 2003.
- "Phenomenology, Community, and the Problem of the Mobility of Meaning"  
Presented to the Society for Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture, Dalhousie University and University of King's College (Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada), May 28-29, 2003.
- "Cellular Irruptions"  
Presented to the Fifth Annual Conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Media, Arcada Polytechnic (Helsinki, Finland), May 14-17, 2003.
- "The Death of Lockeanism and the Rise of Global Leviathanism"  
Presented to the Thirteenth Annual Philosophy, Interpretation and Culture Conference, Binghamton University (Binghamton, NY), April 11-12, 2003.
- "Words and Things: The Problem of Constituting Phenomenological Meaning"  
Presented to the Marquette University Seminar on Phenomenology and Hermeneutics (Milwaukee, WI), March 27, 2003.
- "The War on "Terrorism" and Memory: The Violence of the Hyperreal"  
Presented to the Fifteenth Annual Conference of the Concerned Philosophers for Peace, Walsh University (North Canton, OH), October 24-27, 2002.
- "Trash Talk: A Phenomenological Study of Litter (and Detroit)"  
Presented to the Sixth Annual Meeting of the International Association for Environmental Philosophy, Loyola University (Chicago, IL), October 12-14, 2002.
- "Dwelling in the Classroom: An Outline for a Heideggerian Pedagogy"  
Presented to the Twelfth Annual Philosophy, Interpretation and Culture Conference, Binghamton University (Binghamton, NY), April 19-20, 2002.
- "9/11/01 and the Pull of History"  
Presented to the Fourth Annual Conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Media, Universidad Nacional Autonoma (Puebla, Mexico), February 21-24, 2002.
- "Why Phenomenologists Cannot Describe Essences"  
Presented to the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting (Atlanta, GA). Colloquium on "Phenomenological Reflection and Imagination," December 30, 2001.
- "Post-war Assessments: Merleau-Ponty and Baudrillard"  
Presented to the Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the International Merleau-Ponty Circle: "The Political Implications of Merleau-Ponty's Philosophy," University of North Carolina (Asheville, NC), September 20-22, 2001.
- "What is the State of Dwelling in the Age of the Internet?"  
Presented to the Third Annual Conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Media, National University (La Jolla, CA), February 22-24, 2001.
- "Dissolution and the New World Order"  
Presented at "Borders and Frontiers: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference," Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, PA), November 23, 1996.
- "Looking Through the Keyhole with Jean-Paul Sartre: The Ontology of Voyeurism"  
Presented at a session organized by Barbara Claire Freeman of Harvard ("The Drama of Masochism") during the Twentieth Anniversary Conference of the International Association for Philosophy and Literature "Dramas of Culture," George Mason University (Fairfax, VA), May 8-11, 1996.
- "Breaching the Walls from the Inside: Merleau-Ponty on Expressive Intellectual Discourse"  
Presented at the Sixth annual Philosophy Interpretation Culture Conference "Private Scholars, Public Intellectuals: Institutional Constraints and Ethical Political Responsibilities," Binghamton University (Binghamton, NY), April 19, 1996.
- "Rescuing the Poets: Merleau-Ponty and a Call for an Academic Poetics"  
Presented at "What's the Difference? Communities and Communication in Transition," Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, PA), December 2, 1995.
- "But How is the Silence Filled? The Persistent Gap Between *parole* and *langue* in Merleau-Ponty"  
Presented at the Thirty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Society for Phenomenological and Existential Philosophy, DePaul University (Chicago, IL), October 12-14, 1995.
- "The Unfulfilled Silence: The Problem of Linguistic Innovation in Merleau-Ponty"  
Presented at the Twentieth Annual International Conference of the Merleau-Ponty Circle "Merleau-Ponty, Language, and Contemporary Thought," Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, PA), September 21-23, 1995.
- "Warriors/Shopkeepers/Voyeurs"  
Presented at "Kant's Legacy: Idealism, Romanticism, Post-Modernity," DePaul University (Chicago, IL), May 18-20,

1995.

- "Discrete Environments: Those Which Do Not Dwell"  
Presented at the Philosophy Interpretation Culture Conference "World, Community, Place," State University of New York (Binghamton, NY), April 29-30, 1995.
- "Nietzsche: Sarcasm as Method"  
Presented at the Duquesne Graduate Students in Philosophy Spring Colloquium, Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, PA), February 17, 1995.
- "Kant in Bosnia"  
Presented at "Global (Inter)Sections: Gender, Race, and Class in (Multi)Cultural texts," Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, PA), November 12, 1994.
- "Satire, Misogyny, Moral Extremes, the Idea of Violence, and Conclusive Narrative in David Lynch's 'Twin Peaks'"  
Presented at the NEH Conference "Gender Politics in 20th Century Multicultural Texts," Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, PA), November 13, 1993.

## Other Professional Activities

- Moderator and Co-coordinator  
University of Detroit Mercy's Annual Ethics Bowl (Detroit, MI), 2001-present.
- Book Reviewer  
*Technology and Culture*, July 2001-present.
- Panel Co-Organizer  
"Back to the Things Themselves! A Practicum on Phenomenological Description of 'The In-Between.'" Society for Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture, University of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada), May 29-31, 2007.
- External Reviewer  
St. Joseph's University Honors Program (Philadelphia, PA), March 22-23, 2007.
- Co-Organizer  
"9/11: Five Years & Beyond," Fall 2006. A semester-long series of memorials, lectures, films, discussion panels, speak-outs and performances.
- Member of Editorial Board  
*Glimpse: The Journal of the Society for Phenomenology and Media*, May 2003-February 2006.
- Secretary-Treasurer  
Society for Phenomenology and Media, February 2002-February 2006.
- Lecture  
"Trash Talk: A Phenomenology of Litter (and Detroit)." Presented by invitation at the College of Liberal Arts and Education Faculty Development Colloquium, University of Detroit Mercy (Detroit, MI), January 29, 2004.
- Invited Moderator  
Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the International Merleau-Ponty Circle, University of Western Ontario (London, Ontario, Canada), September 18-20, 2003.
- Invited Public Lecture  
"Pedagogy, Technology, Authenticity," presented at Shimer College (Waukegan, IL), March 28, 2003.
- Invited Panelist  
"Issues Involved with U.S. and Allied Military Action in Iraq," sponsored by the Political Science Association of the University of Detroit Mercy (Detroit, MI), March 12, 2003.
- Invited Moderator  
Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the International Merleau-Ponty Circle, Saint Louis University (St. Louis, MO), September 19-21, 2002.
- Invited Panelist  
"Speak-Out on Academic Freedom: Academic Freedom in the Post-9/11 Era," University of Detroit Mercy (Detroit, MI), February 8, 2002.
- Invited Panelist  
"Information, Technique, and Critique," University of Detroit Mercy (Detroit, MI), April 10, 2001.

- **Invited Panelist**  
"Spirituality, Ethics, and the Environment," University of Detroit Mercy (Detroit, MI), March 22, 2001.
- **Lecture**  
"Dwelling in the classroom/learning at a distance: a Heideggerian investigation of distance learning." Presented by invitation at the College of Liberal Arts Faculty Development Colloquium, University of Detroit Mercy (Detroit, MI), February 8, 2001.
- **Invited Public Lecture**  
"Locke and the Social Theory that Dares Not Speak Its Name." Presented to the University Club (Winter Park, FL), March 14, 2000.
- **Invited Public Lecture**  
"John Locke, the Spirit of '76, and the Divine Right of the Corporation." Presented to the Friends of the Volusia County Library lecture series (Daytona Beach, FL), May 13, 1999.
- **Manuscript Referee**  
Wadsworth Publishing Company (Spring 1999).
- **Invited Moderator**  
American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting (Pittsburgh, PA), April 25, 1997. Colloquium on continental philosophy, "Contesting Nietzsche." Speaker: Christa Davis Acampora (Emory University). Commentator: Jonathan Maskit (Denison University).
- **Conference Co-Coordinator**  
Interdisciplinary Conference "What's the Difference? Communities and Communication in Transition," Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, PA), December 2, 1995.

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## Awards and Honors

- Recipient of Faculty Achievement Award, University of Detroit Mercy, October 2004.
- Invited to be a University Delegate at Heartland-Delta IV, "The Way of the Future: Companions in Mission," Marquette University (Milwaukee, WI), May 24-27, 2004.
- Faculty Representative, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship Program (Fall 2003-Fall 2004).
- Voted "Most Distinguished Professor" by campus-wide student ballot, Rollins College, 1999-2000.
- Graduate School Tuition Scholarship, Duquesne University, 1992-97.
- Graduate Assistantship, Duquesne University, 1993-96.
- Valedictorian, Shimer College, May 1990.
- Dean's List, Shimer College, 1985-1990.
- Frances Wood Shimer Scholarship, Shimer College, 1985-1990.

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## Languages

- Reading knowledge of French and German.

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## Dissertation Abstract

*Title: The Question of Expression: Toward a Phenomenological Rhetoric*

**Director:** Professor Fred Evans, Duquesne University.

The project of phenomenology is the direct investigation and description of phenomena as consciously experienced, without recourse to theories about their causal explanation and as free as possible from unexamined preconceptions and presuppositions. The purpose of this project is to intuit the "things themselves," or the essential structures of lived experience. This is to be achieved through a purely descriptive method, which in turn implies a means of communicating pre-theoretical experience to others in such a way that they can "see" this experience for themselves.

Phenomenology's modern founder Edmund Husserl held that the communication of phenomenology's insights was central to its practice. However, phenomenology's goal of a direct and pre-theoretical approach to experience begs the question of what it would mean to describe experience without reference to theory and other conceptual constructs. Using a formal or technical symbolic system in this endeavor would take phenomenologists too far away from the lived world they seek to describe.

There is substantial textual evidence that these difficulties were of great concern to Husserl. Despite this concern, Husserl never adequately addressed the question of what an appropriately "phenomenological" mode of expression would be like. This implies that phenomenologists do not yet know how to express their pre-theoretical experience. This poses severe problems for the realization of Husserl's vision of phenomenology as being the keystone in the foundation of any rigorous science.

I argue that the phenomenological appeal to "description" is inadequate to the phenomenological project of articulating the essence of lived experience. I demonstrate that a purely descriptive mode of phenomenological expression remains vague and ambiguous, and does not really "give" us the essences that phenomenology seeks. I claim that in order to adequately express phenomenological insights one must come to appreciate the evocative elements of ordinary language. Furthermore, I point to various places where Husserl himself seems aware of the need to speak evocatively in the service of phenomenology. I refer to this as the "rhetorical impulse" in phenomenology, and claim that an appropriately phenomenological mode of expression would have to be evocative rather than descriptive in nature.

Though Husserl himself never adequately thematized a phenomenological rhetoric, I contend that the rhetorical impulse within his thought informs not only Martin Heidegger's and Maurice Merleau-Ponty's respective elaborations on the basic phenomenological theme introduced by Husserl, but also their subsequent investigations of language and speech. Thus, each of their phenomenologies manifest a similar but amplified rhetorical impulse. I conclude by arguing that phenomenologists must re-discover and embrace this rhetorical impulse in order to revive the practice of phenomenology, and by briefly summarizing the essential elements of a phenomenological rhetoric.

Though the implications of my research will be most profound for the practice of phenomenology, this dissertation will also be of interest to students of analytic philosophies of language, post-structuralists working with "language-analogues," as well as theorists of communication, rhetoric, and education—in short, this dissertation will be of interest to members of any discipline where communication is of central concern.

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## Professional Memberships

- American Philosophical Association
- Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy
- International Merleau-Ponty Circle
- International Association for Philosophy and Literature
- Society for Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture
- Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy
- Society for Phenomenology and Media
- Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences

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## References

- Dr. Fred Evans  
Professor of Philosophy  
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- **Dr. Eleanore Holveck,**  
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- **Dr. Robert Madden**  
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- **Dr. Leonard Lawlor**  
Dunavant Distinguished Professor of Philosophy  
University of Memphis  
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- **Dr. J. Thomas Cook**  
Professor of Philosophy  
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