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Dean Komel (1960) is Professor of Contemporary Philosophy and Philosophy of Culture at the Department of Philosophy Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, and the head of research activities at the Institute Nova Revija for the Humanities (Ljubljana).

His research work focuses in particular on addressing the philosophical potential of phenomenological description in conjunction with hermeneutic aspects of understanding and interpretation. In this context, he developed the concepts of “phenomenological interference” and “hermeneutical in-between,” which he also applied to the fields of art theory, philosophy of language, and intercultural philosophy (*Tradition und Vermittlung*, 2005; *Intermundus*, 2009). Within the attempt to elaborate a hermeneutic basis of interdisciplinary humanities, he devoted some of his recent works (*Features of Sense*, 2016; *Horizons of Contemporality*, 2021) to the topological description of the *contemporality of the understanding context*. The epochal experience of contemporaneity in itself goes beyond the methodological framework of establishing humanistic knowledge, as it reveals our existential attitude to what it is today, that is, to the respective historical world.

Komel reflects on the crisis of historical existence in several of his philosophical works, most recently in the *Totalitarium* (2019); the discussion is not limited to the totalitarianism in 20th century but considers the ontotheological, metapolitical, biopolitical, and technoscientific aspects of the elevation of society to the state of unconditional subjectivity.