

Prof. Dr. **James Phillips**, Yale University, USA

James Phillips Clinical Professor of Psychiatry in Yale University School of Medicine. His academic work has focused on the interface of psychiatry and philosophy. In this context he is Secretary of the Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry (AAPP), an international group that promotes the interdisciplinary field. He is also editor of the Bulletin of AAPP. He has written widely in this field, with studies of Merleau-Ponty, Ricoeur, Lacan, Jaspers, Sartre, hermeneutics in psychiatry and psychoanalysis, and diagnostic issues in psychiatry. He has also published and edited a volume on technology and psychiatry.

In a series of articles on Merleau-Ponty Phillips addressed the fact that Merleau-Ponty was the phenomenologist who took Freudian psychoanalysis most seriously. The articles focused on Merleau-Ponty's recognition of the psychoanalytic unconscious, a notion which was alien to phenomenology's study of consciousness. In "Latency and the Unconscious" (1988) Phillips associated the unconscious with Merleau-Ponty's notion of latency. And in "Merleau-Ponty and the Unconscious" (2019) he described Merleau-Ponty's reinterpretation of the unconscious as pre-reflective consciousness. Recognizing that Merleau-Ponty's critics argued that his pre-reflective consciousness only reached the Freudian preconscious, Phillips in "Lacan and Merleau-Ponty: the Confrontation of Psychoanalysis and Phenomenology" (1996) addressed Merleau-Ponty's strongest critic, Jacque Lacan. Finally, in "From the Unseen to the Invisible: Merleau-Ponty's Sorbonne Lectures on Psychoanalysis as Preparation for his Later Thought." (1999), Phillips connected Merleau-Ponty's Sorbonne lectures with his final thought.

Another area of interest for Phillips has technology and psychiatry. In *Philosophical Perspectives on Technology and Psychiatry* (2008) he organized a series of chapters on this theme. In this and other papers, "Technical Reason in DSM-IV: An Unacknowledged Value" (2004); "Managed Care's Reconstruction of Human Reason: The Triumph of Technical Reason" (2002), he explored the way in which technical, instrumental reasoning has replaced traditional reasoning with a repair-model model in which the subtleties of psychopathology are reduced to a broken organism that needs to be fixed. Tracing this model all the way back to Aristotle, Phillips argues that the latter's analysis of practical knowledge predates the struggle over technical, instrumental reason.

In recent years Phillips has focused on problems in psychiatric diagnosis. Two major efforts in this area are *Making the DSM-5: Concepts and Controversies* (2013), edited with J Paris; and *The Six Most Essential Questions in Psychiatric Diagnosis: A Pluralogue* (2012), a six-part series on major questions in psychiatric diagnosis. "Scientific validity in psychiatry: Necessarily a moving target?" (2015) and "Idiographic formulations: Symbols, narratives, context, and meaning" (2005) are belong to this discussion. Phillips' aim in these writing has been to

challenge the hegemony of the biomedical model in contemporary psychiatry.