



2nd International Phenomenological Conference

80 Years After “Being and Nothingness”

In 1943, the opus vitae of the best-known French existentialist Jean-Paul Sartre was published “Being and Nothingness. An outline of phenomenological ontology.” Its appearance caused a stir among the intellectuals of the time like few in the history of philosophical literature and, at the same time, had a powerful effect on successive generations of readers: both successors and critics of Sartre himself. This work was regarded by some as the bible of existentialism, by others as the dark voice of post-war philosophy, by still others as the final end of all idealist metaphysics or a dramatic description of consciousness-in-the-world. In the conclusion of this work, Sartre announced that he would devote his next work to moral issues, but this never saw the light of day in its entirety. What remains, however, are the notes made between 1947–48, which were published after Sartre’s death, in 1983, by his step-daughter, Arlette Elkaïm-Sartre, entitled “Cahiers pour une morale.” As announced by the Author, the main theme remained the constitution of an individual and authentic human morality, and the problems most widely discussed in this work became responsibility, reflection, humanity, essence, violence, work, beauty.

Today, 80 years after the writing of “Being and Nothingness” and 40 years after the publication of “Cahiers pour une morale,” we want to return to the perspectives of thought outlined by Sartre in these works. The first of the aforementioned titles is, on the one hand, a continuation, and on the other hand, in many places a polemic against the earlier and fundamental to modern French ontological thought of man immersed in the world, struggling with his existence and searching for his essence. The second of the texts is a work definitely more embedded in the ethical perspective, asking about the role, place, tasks and duties of a subject seeking meaning in a world of absurdity, a subject condemned to relations with other people, but seen in a much clearer light than in Sartre’s earlier texts.

Today, both works open the way to further readings and new interpretations of themes crucial to phenomenologists, existentialists and philosophers of dialogue and relations. It is with this intention that we would like to invite you to participate in the *2nd International Phenomenological Conference: 80 years after “Being and Nothingness,”* which will be held in a hybrid form on 1–2 June 2023 at the Institute of Philosophy of the Jesuit University Ignatianum.

What new phenomenological insights can today’s interpretations of two of Sartre’s most important works convey to us on these two anniversaries of publication? Which themes, taken up by Sartre, are still relevant and find their continuation among thinkers in the 21st century in the face of those cultural, moral, social transformations that Sartre could not even think of in his time? Which ideas, as described by Sartre, are clearly continued today and which have been abandoned, and why? How can the French existentialist's reflections on the solitary subject, thrown into the absurdity of existence, struggling with its difficulties in a world filled with loneliness and at the same time boundless responsibility, appeal to the imagination of modern man?

What inspiration can today’s psychological, anthropological, cultural, religious, social, cognitive and political sciences find in Sartre’s ideas? Did Sartre die a long time ago and his memory lost or is he perhaps still alive in our thinking, perception of the world and of the other?

Deadline for sending the titles and abstracts of the papers: February 27, 2023.

E-mail address for sending proposals: phenomenology2023@ignatianum.edu.pl

