

Session “Post-phenomenological Geographies: methods and styles of researching and writing the human”

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Writing Compulsive Corporeality: Post-phenomenological methodology and Tourette syndrome

To date, post-phenomenological thought in human geography has mostly been conceptual and theoretical in nature. Underwriting post-phenomenological thought in empirical terms requires the development of a methodology that incites a new way of thinking human being through bodily experience. This paper proposes a renegotiation of embodiment through an interrogation of the human condition; in particular through the actualisation of a being-with-the-world through a collection of human experience and capacities produced by Tourette syndrome. Amongst other things, Tourette syndrome produces a non-intentional, non-voluntary need for interactions with the extracorporeal. These compulsive interactions are driven purely by a craving for bodily sensations that can only be satisfied by touching objects in a certain way. These cravings are meaningless by definition, whilst productive of deep emotional engagement with these objects. This engagement is demonstrative of an ontological intimation of self and world through a co-emergence of the corporeal and the extracorporeal. Nonetheless, following Ash and Simpson (2016), the paper argues that this phenomenon also demonstrates how this is conditional on a reinstatement of the autonomous extracorporeal. As such, the paper develops potential underpinnings of post-phenomenological methodology by presenting an empirical way of thinking corporeal negotiation.

- Ash, J. & Simpson, P. (2016) “Geography and post-phenomenology”. *Progress in Human Geography* 40 (1), 48-66.

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