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Addiction as a disorder of temporality: A phenomenological approach


The task of a phenomenological approach is to describe the specific nature of addiction and to bring about its irreducibility in contradistinction to other particular phenomena. However, seeing that differentiation would entail to describe addiction in a phenomenological manner, should we still envision it as a kind of “pathology”? In this paper I’ll discuss the latest contributions in understanding addiction starting with the investigation of lived temporality and of embodied powerlessness, concomitantly advocating the need to overcome the distinction normal pathological when we speak about the experience of addiction and recovery. The phenomenological approach encourages a shift of the attention from particular disorders to their underlying, temporal foundations. It leads necessarily to the re-discovering of subject’s capability in an area that usually

has been thought to be defined by a “lack of control” and, therefore, to be prone to chaotic pathological processes. Consequently, addiction has to be re-framed as a specific kind of worldly experience in which the subject (the agent) confronts her or himself with the contingency of the world and with the “interruptions” of her or his mastery.

Speaker Biography

Ion Copoeru teaches philosophy and ethics at Babes-Bolyai University ClujNapoca. His research interests are located mainly in phenomenology (intersubjectivity, normativity, addictions) and ethics in professions, with focus on the professions of law and healthcare. He is author of *Appearance and meaning* and *Structures of Phenomenological Constitution*, editor or co-editor of several collective volumes and current phenomenological research in Romania and France.

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