

Workshop Presenters

10-11.30am: *Seeing our Seeing* with Peter Stewart

In Goethean phenomenology, the human being is seen as the best instrument for observing the world – but this position requires us to keep one eye on the observer at the same time as we observe the world. This session will provide opportunities to experience our knowing in the act of seeing, as we observe ourselves as thinking-perceiving beings interacting with the world of phenomena. It is an opportunity to explore the interactive nature of our thinking and seeing; that we cannot separate what we see from how we see.

12.30-2.30pm: *Beholding as an 'dwelling' technique* with Dr Fiona Campbell

Dwelling is an integral step in all phenomenological research. It is the process by which we make room in ourselves for a phenomenon to reveal itself and speak its story to us. *Beholding* is an unfolding, see-ing technique that enables a deep dwelling into an entity or experience, one which allows us to overcome our natural desire to immediately cognitise and order our experiences. Through non-cognitive engagement, we can more easily explore the essential aspects of the phenomenon in relation to being human. Developed by Fiona from indications by Goethe and Steiner for 'contemplating receptively', this observation technique has a wide application in qualitative research. Fiona will lead us through stages of this approach using contemplation and sketching.

Please bring coloured pencils with you for this session. Paper and drawing pencil provided

2.30-4 pm: *An experience of Hermeneutic Phenomenology* with Martin Samson

Hermeneutic phenomenology is founded on the idea that people make meaning (the hermeneutic aspect) of lived experiences (the phenomenological aspect) through dialogue. Hans Georg Gadamer spoke of the fusion of horizons as a dialogue between reader, author and text. This can also be seen as the reader's pre-text, the author's context and the phenomenon of the text at hand. In this part of the day Martin will use the Lord's Prayer to introduce us to a way of interpreting (Hermeneutics) this well-known text. We will work through the universal horizon of language and discover a way to understand and interpret the text from our own experience making each person conversant as a theologian (a person who forms a spiritual understanding/teaching from the text) The hermeneutic circle is the idea that our understanding of a text as a whole is based on our understanding of each individual part, as well as our understanding of how each individual part refers to the whole text.

Please bring pen and writing paper with you for this session.