

DIETRICH VON HILDEBRAND INSTITUTE
for Philosophy and Realist Phenomenological Research



DIRECTOR: PROF. JOSEF SEIFERT

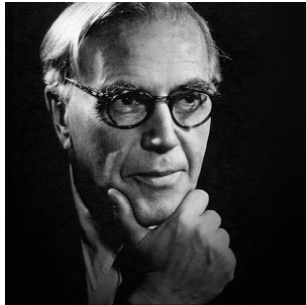
DHIP – 2019

Contents

HISTORY AND CURRENT STATUS OF THE DHIP	3
MAIN PURPOSE AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVE	4
Philosophizing on the “Island of the Blessed”	5
STUDY AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES.	6
FREEDOM OF RESEARCH AND RESEARCH GUIDELINES	7
PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS	8
Approved languages for research papers, presentations, etc.	8
LOCATION OF THE RESEARCH SEMINARS	9
Study times	9
ADMISSION AND APPLICATION	10
TUITION FEES	11
EXPANSION AND FINANCING PLANS	12
Donations and donation receipts	12

DHIP – 2019

HISTORY AND CURRENT STATUS OF THE DHIP



Dietrich von Hildebrand
1889–1977

The **Dietrich von Hildebrand Institute of Philosophy** (DHIP) was founded in 2018 at the Gustav Siewerth Academy (Bierbronnen, Germany). Its director is Professor Josef M. Seifert. Its activity is not tied to the town of Bierbronnen. The Institute collaborates with the Dietrich von Hildebrand Legacy Project (HP), based in Steubenville, Ohio, at the Franciscan University of Steubenville (FUS). The first physical site of the DHIP is located in Gaming, N.Ö.

However, the DHIP's activities began in 2018 with two research projects: *The Divine Creation from Nothingness: Philosophical Evidence* and *The Free Will of Man: Against its Foes*. The research and teaching activities of the DHIP are to be continued initially in 3292 Gaming, N.Ö. by the research work of Professor Seifert and some young researchers.

The DHIP also cooperates with the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU), for the time being only through the lectureship of Professor Seifert as *Privatdozent*. An extension of the cooperation with FUS and LMU is planned. It is hoped that a permanent physical headquarters for the DHIP can be established in Munich.

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MAIN PURPOSE AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The main purpose of research at the DHI is not philosophical–historical work, but systematic philosophy and the search for truth.

The DHIP sees itself as a training center for young philosophers and has retained the motto of the International Academy for Philosophy in Texas and the Principality of Liechtenstein, whose Founding Rector is Professor Josef Seifert: *Diligere veritatem omnem et in omnibus (Love all truth and love it in all!)*. The sentence of St. Thomas Aquinas, which goes back to Aristotle, also serves as the guiding principle of DHIP:

The study of philosophy does not aim to know what people’s opinions are, but the truth of things.¹

Philosophical historical studies at the DHI are to serve exclusively one’s philosophizing on one’s own, which is to be ”learned” at the DHIP. As Thomas says elsewhere:

If listeners only learn what different authorities mean, and not the truth about being and the truth itself, they are left empty.

And Augustine already asked passionately:

Because who is so stupidly curious that he sends his son to a school to find out what the teacher thinks? But the teachers explain through words all the sciences that they profess to teach and also the science of virtue itself and wisdom. Then those who are called disciples look inside at whether what has been explained to them is true, looking at that inner truth and seeing it to the extent that they are capable of it. So they learn, and when the inner truth tells them what truth they have been told, they applaud, but without noticing that instead of clapping to teachers, they applaud learners; when teachers really know what they are saying [...] ².

¹Thomas Aquinas, *De Coelo et Mundo*, I, 22, n. 9.

²*De Magistro*, 14, 46 (Translated from Latin by Josef Seifert).

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MAIN PURPOSE AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

PHILOSOPHIZING ON THE “ISLAND OF THE BLESSED”

Besides the conscious return to the truth about the things themselves, the DHIP also returns to the original form of «learning» philosophy, as Socrates and Plato offered it in their dialogues and Aristotle in the peripathetic school and as it has become rare at large universities. The «learning to philosophize» at the DHIP happens – during the preparation of a master’s or doctoral thesis or habilitation, or when a student or professor takes a break from studying or teaching at a *standard university* – in one’s own philosophical questions, cognition, and thematic research strengthened by being exposed to peer critique. The DHIP offers upper level students private lessons and at the same time a direct and personal exchange with one or more philosophers, as it will also be welcome for colleagues during their sabbatical year.

In a way, the DHIP can be described as an «elite school of philosophy». Although research performance is evaluated, it is not a question of listening to lectures and taking exams or acquiring CTS credits, nor of getting to know the opinions of famous philosophers, but of intensive *doing philosophy* under the guidance of, and in conversation with, one or, as soon as the DHIP’s grows, several philosophers.

The DHIP does not see itself in contrast to standard universities, as long as they are committed to the search for truth and have not succumbed to the crumbling scepticism and relativism, but as an important complement to these during one or more semesters or a sabbatical year, as it were as spiritual renewal and recreation on a philosophical «island of the blessed», as Hildebrand called this type of philosophy studies decades ago, introduced at the Universities of Salzburg and Texas and later at the International Academy of Philosophy in the Principality of Liechtenstein and at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and the IP-IFES in Granada, as well as recently at the HP in Steubenville, OHIO.

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STUDY AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

From November 16, 2019, students and researchers from other universities (a stay at the DHIP is also excellently suited for sabbatical years of colleagues from other universities) will be offered the possibility of a one-year, multi-year, or one-semester research stay. At present, the DHIP offers membership and active participation in research seminars to researchers (mainly doctoral and postdoctoral students of philosophy or related subjects) who work at different universities and are interested in Dietrich von Hildebrand, or more generally in realist philosophy and phenomenology, whose methods they want to work with in their own original research or understand and confront them deeply (e.g. from the point of view of German idealism, hermeneutics, or later Husserlian phenomenology). The encounter of realist phenomenologists and their critics in the common quest for truth can also serve the fruitful dialogue that has developed over the past year between thinkers who pursue analytical philosophy and Seifert in Gaming. The same is true of intense debates that took place previously in Texas and many other places between Thomists and phenomenological realists and personalists.

DHIP members are offered a 2 or 4 hour research seminar at least once a week. These seminars have the following structure:

- ◆ Researchers present the core of their research (or dissertation and habilitation projects) in 20-minute presentations; another researcher responds to these presentations in a 10-minute short presentation. This is followed by a general philosophical discussion under the direction of a professor. Participation and evaluation of research performance will be certified by DHIP.
- ◆ Every student is also given the opportunity to have a personal philosophical discussion with the faculty once a week. In principle, it is also possible to attend, as guest auditors, one lecture and one seminar per week, which Professor Seifert will offer at the LMU from April 2020 on. Top-class international symposia and lecture series are also planned.

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FREEDOM OF RESEARCH AND RESEARCH GUIDELINES

The DHIP grants its members and researchers full freedom of research.

Nevertheless, there are a number of guidelines and topics that are particularly recommendable from the point of view of the DHIP's name and management, and which lead one to expect an optimal and fruitful research community, based on what follows.

- ◆ All research topics should have a positive, critical or comparative relation to Realist Phenomenology.
- ◆ Topics that take their starting point in philosophical contributions of the Early Phenomenologists and protophenomenologists, in particular the Munich Phenomenologists and the Göttinger Kreis but are developed further by the researcher: Husserl's *Logische Untersuchungen*, Alexander Pfänder, Adolf Reinach, Max Scheler, Dietrich von Hildebrand, Edith Stein, Alexander Koyré, Moritz Geiger, Roman Ingarden, Balduin Schwarz, and others.
- ◆ Topics that tie in with contributions by later realist phenomenologists such as Fritz Wenisch, Josef Seifert, Stephen Schwarz, John Crosby, Ludger Hölscher, Martin Cajthaml, and others.
- ◆ Topics from the subject areas of personalist philosophies of the authors mentioned and from the Lublin-Krakow School: Karol Wojtyła, Tadeusz Styczeń, and others.
- ◆ Research topics from the fields of epistemology and methodology, critique of skepticism and relativism, philosophical anthropology, ethics, in particular research into actions that are bad in themselves (intrinsically wrong), virtues, moral values and disvalues, bioethics, human dignity, medical ethics, «brain death», organremoval, abortion, euthanasia, contraception; Metaphysics, Philosophy of God and of religion, aesthetics, classical and phenomenological logic (Pfänder and others), problems of apories, antinomies, logical paradoxes, etc.

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PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

Interested researchers can submit their work for publication in the DHIP series: *Realistische phänomenologische Philosophie*: Philosophische Studien des Dietrich von Hildebrand Instituts für Philosophie und realistische phänomenologische Forschung/*Realist Phenomenological Philosophy*: Philosophical Studies of the Dietrich von Hildebrand Institute for Philosophy and Realist Phenomenological Research/ *Filosofía Realista Fenomenológica*: Investigaciones filosóficas del Instituto Dietrich von Hildebrand de Filosofía e Investigación Fenomenológica Realista.

The publisher of this series is the International Academy of Philosophy (IAP) Press, which collaborates with KDP (Kindle Direct Publishing) and publishes each volume both as a paperback and an e-book. Director of this publishing house since 1980 and publisher of this series is Josef Seifert. If the submitted research work is accepted for the series, it can be published free of charge (100% for the author) and the author receives royalties. The book prices can be kept free and very affordable by DHIP and author. Automatic advertising in numerous countries is automatically secured. Extra advertising can be purchased cheaply. Book publication is possible in numerous languages.

APPROVED LANGUAGES OF WRITTEN AND ORAL EXAMINATIONS AND RESEARCH PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, ETC.

German, English, Spanish, Italian, French (in writing also Portuguese). Publications are also possible in many other languages as part of the series.

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LOCATION OF THE RESEARCH SEMINARS

The place of the research seminars is first of all:

- ◆ 3292 Gaming, N.Ö. Im Markt 39, Austria.

Other possible places, each after announcement, are:

- ◆ Kartause, Gaming, Austria, Kartausenweg 1 (10 minutes walk from 1). Members of DHIP can ask Mag. Thomas Wolter (twolter@franciscan.edu) for low-priced student rooms.
- ◆ 6921 Kennelbach, Kustersbergstr. 16, Vorarlberg, Austria.
- ◆ Accademia Gustav Siewerth, Oberbierbronnen 1 79809 Weilheim-Bierbronnen, Germany.
- ◆ Munich, Germany (concrete address will be announced).

STUDY TIMES

Semester times are based, with a certain flexibility, on those of the University of Munich (LMU). The first DHIP semester starts on November 16, 2019. There is no obligation to attend research seminars or other courses. Participation via Skype or WhatsApp is possible. Visits to other places and libraries are recommended (e.g. Vienna National and University Library, Bavarian State and Munich University Library, etc.).

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ADMISSION AND APPLICATION

Interested researchers can now apply for admission to the DHIP at jmbseifert@gmail.com:

Applications have to be accompanied by:

- ◆ A letter of application and motivation (1 page),
- ◆ *A curriculum vitae*,
- ◆ Indication and evidence of previous studies,
- ◆ A list of one's own publications,
- ◆ Recommendations of 2 professors in case the research is not known to DHIP,
- ◆ A written work of his/her own of at least 15 pages (drafts of dissertations or postdoctoral essays),
- ◆ A description of the intended research topic and stage (plan, beginning, advanced, near completion).

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TUITION FEES

Annual research and membership fees in the DHIP amount to 5,000€ per year (or 2,500€ per semester). These fees have to be paid (at the beginning of your studies or research participation³ to the account:

Volksbank Hochrhein

IBAN: DE85 68492200 0002 1561 48

BIC: GENODE61WT1

Bank address:

Volksbank Hochrhein

Bismarckstr. 29

79809 Waldshut

The account name is:

Gustav-Siewerth-Haus Ltd.

Oberbierbronnen 1

79809 Weilheim, Germania

The account holder is the Gustav Siewerth Academy. Rights of disposal over the account are with DHIP.

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³Reasonable exceptions and postponement of payment by arrangement are possible.

EXPANSION AND FINANCING PLANS

DHIP aims to raise funds that expand the faculty and allow it to appoint a permanent professor/director of the institute and offer interested applicants a range of full scholarships (15,000€) to cover tuition and living expenses, partial scholarships (7,500€) and a larger number of research seminars (applications for scholarships have to be submitted separately). We also *consider* renting or buying suitable premises in *Munich*.

DONATIONS AND DONATION RECEIPTS

Donation receipts for donations or grants will be issued by the GSA. The purpose of the donation should be stated thus: *To the Gustav Siewerth Academy for the Dietrich von Hildebrand Institute for Philosophy and Realist Phenomenological Research (DHIP)*. More specific indications of the purpose of a donation are possible: such as «for scholarships», «for a new Professorship», etc.

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EXPANSION AND FINANCING PLANS

MANY THANKS IN ADVANCE TO ALL SPONSORS AND DONORS! THANKS ALSO TO ALL THOSE WHO WILL ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THIS IMPORTANT RESEARCH PROJECT!



Professor Josef Seifert,
Dr. phil. habil. Dr. h.c., Director of DHIP
jmbseifert@gmail.com

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