

Future Directions in Feminist Phenomenology
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What is Feminist Phenomenology? Looking Backwards and Into the Future

ABSTRACT

Feminist phenomenology can now look back over a tradition of several decades if we set its beginning with Simone de Beauvoir's existential phenomenological study, *The Second Sex* (1949). But only in the 1990s did it develop as its own discipline within phenomenology and gender research. Since then, feminist phenomenology has served as an umbrella term for the various phenomenological and feminist approaches that take gender as an object of study. The history and heterogeneity of these approaches, as well as the various understandings of feminist phenomenology, make a new appraisal of this beginning now necessary. In this paper an attempt to historically and systematically characterize feminist phenomenology will be undertaken.