



Special Issue in memory of Giovanni Piana

edited by Emanuele Caminada & Michela Summa

Presentation

Giovanni Piana (1940-2019) sadly passed away last February, leaving us an important body of work in the fields of phenomenology, aesthetics, and philosophy of music.

Piana's work is characterized by his 'structuralist' understanding of phenomenology. Such an understanding is not meant as an integration of the phenomenological method with the structuralist method developed in semiotics and applied to such different disciplines as anthropology or the theory of literature. By designating his philosophical approach as 'structuralist phenomenology', Piana intends rather to emphasize that phenomenology is primarily a method aiming to elucidate the *structures* of experience, i.e. its intrinsic order, lawfulness, and organization. Importantly, Piana takes 'structure' as the appropriate translation of the German '*Wesen*'. In such a way, he emphasizes that 'structure' is what qualifies specific kinds of experiences according to their intrinsic features and according to the way in which they relate to their objects.

Such an understanding of 'structuralist phenomenology' is presupposed by Piana's philosophical project of a 'theory of experience', which should ground all further philosophical projects, including the theory of knowledge. Such an emphasis on the primacy of experience not only characterizes Piana's critique of subjectivism, idealism, and constructivism. It also underlies Piana's departure from the – for a long time dominant – overemphasizing of the ethical pathos implied in Husserl's later discussion of the life-world. On Piana's interpretation, recognizing the primacy of experience as embedded in the lifeworld should not be conceived in strict opposition to the philosophy of science, nor should its aims be conflated with those endorsed by the philosophy of life. The return to the lifeworld

should instead accomplish a program that is proper to phenomenology from its very beginning: retracing the sources of meaningfulness and knowledge within the self-structuration of experience and reassessing the processes and configurations that lead from simpler to more complex forms of structuration (see Piana 1996, available in [German](#) and [Italian](#)).

The journal *Phenomenological Reviews* will dedicate a special issue to Piana and his work. This issue is not only conceived with the aim of honoring Piana's memory. It also and particularly aims to begin the process of taking act of his intellectual legacy, to highlight the fruitfulness of his understanding of phenomenology, and to make crucial aspects of his philosophical work – available mostly in Italian – accessible to a larger international public.

The present issue will be the first in a series dedicated to significant thinkers in phenomenology, with the intention of *passing in review* not only individual books as they are published, but the particular, often idiosyncratic, unity of a scholarly life as a whole.

The issue will be edited by Emanuele Caminada (Leuven) and Michela Summa (Würzburg), with the support of Roberta de Monticelli (Milan) and Patrick Flack (Geneva).

Confirmed contributors include Roberta De Monticelli, Paolo Spinicci, Vincenzo Costa, Elio Franzini, and Carlo Serra. **Invitation**

We invite friends, collaborators, and students of Giovanni Piana, along with scholars interested in his work, to send us their contributions by the end of the year (**December 31st, 2019**). We particularly encourage contributions with the following focuses:

- Piana's phenomenological-structuralist method and its importance for the phenomenological theory of experience
- Piana's contributions to the 'theory of experience', notably concerning the philosophy of perception and imagination
- Piana's contribution to aesthetics, notably concerning the philosophy of music
- The inquiry into the relation between the theory of experience and the theory of science
- Piana's interpretation of the main philosophical 'interlocutors' for his work (e.g. Husserl, Schopenhauer, Hume, Wittgenstein, Bachelard)
- Piana's position in the phenomenological movement of the XX Century
- Piana's legacy for contemporary philosophical research

His complete works are available at his online archives: <http://www.filosofia.unimi.it/piana/>

Contributions can also take the form of short personal reminiscences, research articles on Piana's work, interviews, re-editions of co-authored work, etc.

Information

According to the policy of *Phenomenological Reviews*, we accept articles in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Russian. However, we will prioritize contributions in languages other than Italian. Besides following the guidelines of the journal, we kindly ask all authors to also quote Italian original text when translating passages from Piana's Complete Works.

The special issue will be published in **2020**, in open access.

Submissions prepared for **anonymous peer review** should be sent to reviews@ophen.org