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Philosophers to gather at Laurier for
international phenomenology conference

Philosophers from Canada, the United States, Europe, and Japan will meet at Wilfrid Laurier University June 1-8 for a conference on phenomenology, a branch of philosophic thought founded by Edmund Husserl, who died in 1938.

The Husserl Circle and the German society for phenomenological research will be observing the semi-centennial of Husserl's death, with a conference entitled Philosophy as a strict science: the dream is indeed not exhausted.

Chairman for the event will be Dr. Jose Huertas-Jourda, associate professor of philosophy at Laurier, who heads the archival repository for the Centre of Advanced Research in Phenomenology.

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Phenomenology deals with the way things can be known in a strict and scientific way without recourse to measurement or a mathematical language. It has influenced the development of philosophy and the sciences of man, including such fields as religious studies, psychiatry, psychology, sociology, cultural history, and aesthetics.

The phenomenology collection at Laurier houses a great many documents, including the notes of Winthrop Bell, the only Canadian to study under Husserl.

A feature of interest to the general public is a showing of the phenomenological art works of Jean Detheux of Belgium, gold medal laureate and prix Watteau. His work is seen as the opposite of conceptual and might be termed hyper-representational, or even deconstructionist, as all his efforts are directed toward the capture of the fragile moment when we first confront the visible, before we resolve it into a structure.