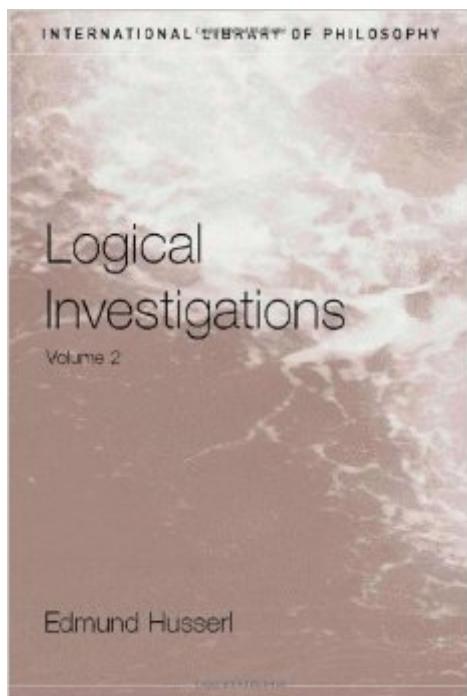


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Logical Investigations, Vol. 2 (International Library Of Philosophy)



Synopsis

Edmund Husserl is the founder of phenomenology and the Logical Investigations is his most famous work. It had a decisive impact on twentieth century philosophy and is one of few works to have influenced both continental and analytic philosophy. This is the first time both volumes have been available in paperback. They include a new introduction by Dermot Moran, placing the Investigations in historical context and bringing out their contemporary philosophical importance. These editions include a new preface by Sir Michael Dummett.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is the founding document of phenomenology and the book (along with the works of Frege) which ultimately led to the analytic/Continental divide in philosophy. It is, therefore, a very important work not only in terms of understanding Husserl's own philosophy and the development of phenomenology but for anyone who is interested in the history of philosophy in the twentieth-century. It is a challenging work. Husserl's style is dense and somewhat dry and technical. You have to read very slowly and be prepared to re-read sections over and over but the result, if you have the patience, is very rewarding. It is important to realize that Husserl's road to phenomenology began with the goal of grounding the objectivity of logic against the doctrines of psychologism (the doctrine that the laws of logic are based on empirical facts of psychology and are, therefore, relative to the species homo sapiens). The first section of this book is a really devastating critique of psychologism. This is important because phenomenology is often criticized for its subjectivism and its supposed lack of objectivity. Husserl's goal in this work is to ground the

objectivity of logic against all forms of relativism (especially species relativism and the relativism that Husserl believes is inherent to Kant's philosophy). Psychologism views logic as a technology of thinking, judging, proving, etc. and, therefore, believes it needs to investigate these phenomena, which are psychological phenomena, in order to work out a correct technology which would insure that we make correct or true judgements. Husserl writes, "Theoretically regarded, Logic therefore is related to psychology as part to whole.

In Logical Investigations (Volume 2), Husserl further refined his growing preoccupation with phenomenology. This second volume was published in German in 1900 but was not available in English until J. N. Findlay translated it in 1970. In both volumes, Husserl distances himself from the notion that mathematics and psychology are closely bound. His new interest lay in the relationship between logic and epistemology, a union which contributed greatly to the spread of phenomenology in the first half of the twentieth century. The general thrust of both volumes is that disciplines like mathematics are not rooted in the mysterious workings of the human mind but are entirely based on the recognition of laws that connect a viewing subject to a viewed object. Not everyone, however, was convinced that this second volume was a complete break with psychologism. Husserl's pupil, Martin Heidegger, after a thorough reading of both volumes claimed that Husserl's nesting of various mathematical and logical activities within the mind continued to place psychologism as an integral component of mathematics and other "hard" natural disciplines. The structure of Logical Investigations is hinted at in his division of the book. He uses "investigations" as roughly synonymous with "chapters" or "parts." He spends much time refuting his earlier connection of mathematics with psychology; now he asserts that any relation between a viewing subject and what he sees (such as mathematics) cannot be based on the vagaries of human psychology. Rather, one must try insofar as possible to use the objectivities of science to co-relate that science with human consciousness.

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