

A dance between the reduction and reflexivity:
Explicating the phenomenological psychological
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A Dance Between the Reduction and Reflexivity: Explicating the "Phenomenological Attitude"



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This article explores the nature of "the phenomenological attitude," which is understood as the process of retaining the world while reflexively restraining pre-understandings, as it applies to psychological research. A brief history identifies Husserl's outlining Husserl's formulation of the reductions and subsequent existential-hermeneutic elaborations, and how t

empirical psychological research. Then three concrete descriptions of engaging the phenomenological attitude are epoché of the natural sciences, the psychological phenomenological reduction and the eidetic reduction can be applied. Reflections on the impact and value of the researcher's stance show that these reductions can be intertwined with process, something of a dance occurs—a tango in which the researcher twists and glides through a series of imprecision and contradictory motions, the researcher slides between striving for reductive focus and reflexive self-awareness and exploiting them as a source of insight. Caught up in the dance, researchers must wage a constant battle to become aware of, and then manage, pre-understandings and habitualities that inevitably linger. Persistence will win if fleeting, moments of disclosure in which the phenomenon reveals something of itself in a fresh way.

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