“Mankind is made to seek out the human” (Minkowski). The Contribution of Phenomenological Psychiatry to a Phenomenology of Vulnerability ”


Abstract: Recent years have shown a renewed interest in phenomenological psychiatry and its possible contributions to contemporary debates on the crisis of human subjectivity and rationality. The contribution of phenomenological psychiatry to critical phenomenology has been underlined (Zahavi & Loidolt, 2022). Moreover, the philosophical investigation of the human heart and interiority (Steinbock, 2021; 2022; Boublil & Calcagno, 2023) has highlighted the decisive insights of phenomenological approaches to human vulnerability. This talk will focus on Eugène Minkowski’s psychopathology and philosophy to stress and analyze its relevance for such a discussion. Minkowski’s philosophical anthropology overcomes anthropocentrism yet reaffirms the anthropogenic constitution of intersubjectivity and values. His critique of “morbid rationalism” and his emphasis on emotions – especially in the clinical encounter – invite us to seek “the human in mankind” to defeat the alienating paradigm of the invulnerable subject. This presentation aims to elucidate this claim and appraise its implications for contemporary phenomenology and philosophy of health.

October 16th, 2023
5:00-6:30
214 Harriman Hall
Reception to Follow