

## Phenomenological Research Methods

### Summary

phenomenology , a philosophical movement originating in the 20th century, the primary objective of which is the direct investigation and description of phenomena as consciously experienced, without theories about their causal explanation and as free as possible from unexamined preconceptions and presuppositions. The word itself is much older, however, going back at least to the 18th century, when the Swiss German mathematician and philosopher Johann Heinrich Lambert applied it to that part of his theory of knowledge that distinguishes truth from illusion and error. In the 19th century the word became associated chiefly with the *Phänomenologie des Geistes* (1807; Phenomenology of Mind), by Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel , who traced the development of the human spirit from mere sense experience to "absolute knowledge." The so-called phenomenological movement did not get under way, however, until early in the 20th century. But even this new phenomenology included so many varieties that a comprehensive characterization of the subject requires their consideration.

### Characteristics of phenomenology

In view of the spectrum of phenomenologies that have issued directly or indirectly from the original work of the German philosopher Edmund Husserl, it is not easy to find a common denominator for such a movement beyond its common source. But similar situations occur in other philosophical as well as nonphilosophical movements.

## Reference

[Research Foundations of Human Development and Family Science](#)

[Conducting Clinical Research: A Practical Guide for Physicians, Nurses, Study Coordinators, and Investigators](#)