Introductory Note

Phenomenology is one of the major streams in Hungarian philosophical tradition. It is worth noting that phenomenology not only originates from the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, but this territory was also of great importance with regard to the deepest conceptual roots of Husserlian thinking, it is sufficient to mention Brentano and Meinong. This background played an essential role in the development of Hungarian philosophical ideas: the young Lukács created a phenomenological aesthetics in his so-called Heidelbergian art philosophy, Vilmos Szilasi inherited the Department of Philosophy in Freiburg after Husserl and Heidegger, while the other leading thinkers of that epoch, from Antal Szűcs to Ákos Pauler, were systematically dealing with phenomenological problems as well.

It is not an exaggeration to say that today there is a renaissance of phenomenology in Hungary. This collection of papers reflects the new tendencies, among others, with emphasis on the phenomenology of social reality. These papers can be conceived as an outcome of the international conference entitled Hungarian Philosophy Today – Phenomenology and Society, that was held on May 20, 2013, with the participation of philosophers from Hungary and Serbia.

Among topics discussed are the „phenomenological community“, as a possibility for an authentic integration (Zsolt Bagi); the institutionalization of the institution from the viewpoint of the theory of the document (Petar Bojanić); the „theological turn“ of French phenomenology by relying on the analysis of the idea of infinity (Tamás Pavlovits); the Simmelian theory of the constitution of social and cultural objects as a necessary supplement to Husserlian intentionality (Ádám Takács); the phenomenology of intersubjectivity in the philosophy of Merleau-Ponty and Sartre, from the perspective of social philosophy (Alpar Losoncz).