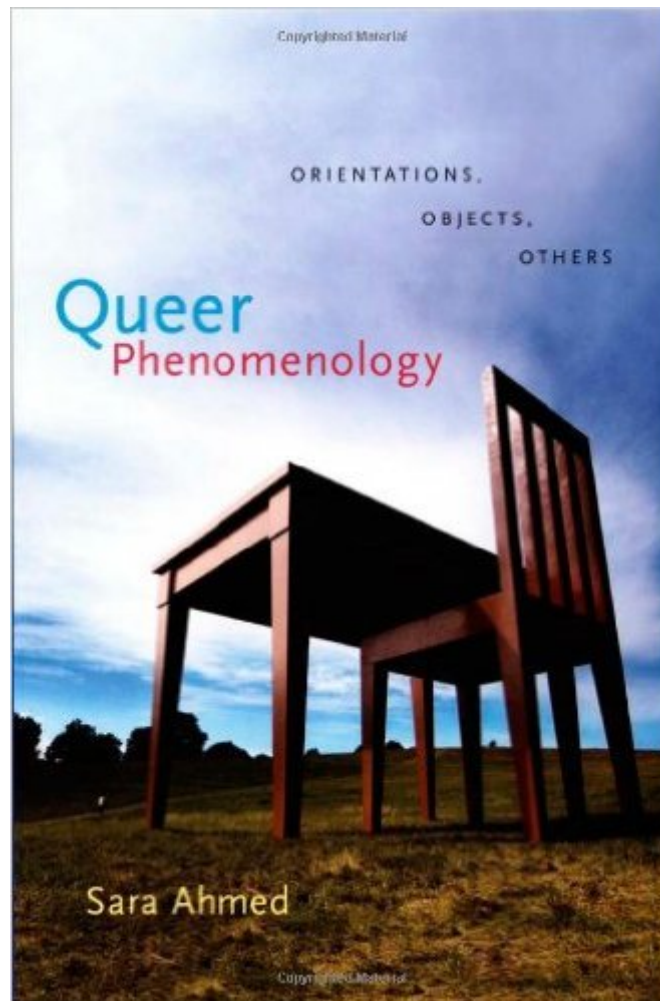


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Queer Phenomenology: Orientations, Objects, Others



Synopsis

In this groundbreaking work, Sara Ahmed demonstrates how queer studies can put phenomenology to productive use. Focusing on the "orientation" aspect of "sexual orientation" and the "orientation" in "orientalism," Ahmed examines what it means for bodies to be situated in space and time. Bodies take shape as they move through the world directing themselves toward or away from objects and others. Being "orientated" means feeling at home, knowing where one stands, or having certain objects within reach. Orientations affect what is proximate to the body or what can be reached. A queer phenomenology, Ahmed contends, reveals how social relations are arranged spatially, how queerness disrupts and reorders these relations by not following the accepted paths, and how a politics of disorientation puts other objects within reach, those that might, at first glance, seem awry. Ahmed proposes that a queer phenomenology might investigate not only how the concept of orientation is informed by phenomenology but also the orientation of phenomenology itself. Thus she reflects on the significance of the objects that appear "and those that do not" as signs of orientation in classic phenomenological texts such as Husserl's *Ideas*. In developing a queer model of orientations, she combines readings of phenomenological texts "by Husserl, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, and Fanon" with insights drawn from queer studies, feminist theory, critical race theory, Marxism, and psychoanalysis. *Queer Phenomenology* points queer theory in bold new directions.

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Customer Reviews

Sara Ahmed is great writer and in this book she deftly uses phenomenology to analyze how gender,

sexuality and racialization become structured through ways bodies are situated and acquire tendencies. She also touches on also how through a reorientation of bodies and tendencies different objects/modes of existence come within reach. For those readers who are already involved with cultural studies or feminist theory, this book will be easy to read on its own, but it can also be enhanced if one has read a bit of Husserl, Heidegger, and Merleau-Ponty or at least introductions to their work.

Sara Ahmed is my hero. This book shaped the way that i view the world. she beautifully lays out phenomenology, and then takes it to the next level. Her description of 'queering'lines of perception bring into question what we know, and challenge the reader to appreciate and understand discomfort. I think everyone, queer or straight, should read this. By far the best book i read in college

This is a great book. The author's line of thought is very new and queer. She goes from basic everyday examples to the thoughts of great philosopher's, making simpler to understand her thoughts and theirs in contrast.

its cool

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