Can We Use Phenomenological Tools in Planning? How to Understand and Use Indigenous Life World Experiences in Research (And the Answer is YES!)

By: Janette Leung, MEd., MPI., MCIP

## Introduction to Phenomenology in Practice

What is Phenomenology?

2 How to identify and Use Phenomenological Text

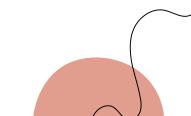
3 What do Phenomenologists say About Indigenous Peoples Knowledge and Experiences?



#### What is Phenomenology?

#### Phenomenology = Human Experience

#### But is that all?



# OPINION

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#### The Phenomenology of the 'Dog that Plays the Piano'



The phenomenology of the dog that plays the piano goes hand in hand with a certain conformism regarding the lack of serious investments in education and vocational training.

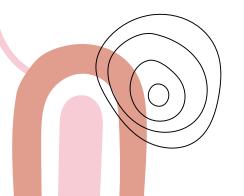
And that is why when it comes to investing in highlevel training, the accusations of elitism immediately jump out: accusations of why the brand-new music school in which so much money was invested rejects so many Why rejects so many applicants or why the concerts are not free or why those that are free have to be paid for by the government when it should be better to spend **on** something else.

People are also asked why you have to pay the pianist who plays the piano, when we all know some "dog" who will play it for a few croquettes... So the glorification of the dog that plays the piano fulfills the dual function of alleviating

# What is a Phenomenon?

- Something that is Manifest;
- Something that we Live Through;
- Something that reveals itself to Us;

Through our Consciousness.



# Phenomenology

The study of the consciousness of these manifestations in the form of experiences often in the Lifeworld.



# When the Phenomenon is found in...

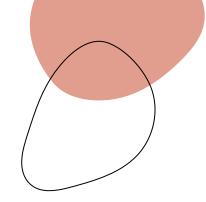
A persons consciousness of their own primal impressions, sensations and perceptions, it is referred to as Descriptive Example 1: I was doing some shopping with my 23 year old son. At on moment, when we were talking and walking along, he took my hand suddenly. For a fleeting moment, a memory came rushing back to me, a physical memory. It felt like he took my hand just as he used to as a child. (Van Manen, p. 54, 2014)

# When the Phenomenon is found in ...

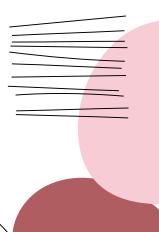
An individuals with "intentions" towards another person, object, place or event, while moving through a world that is always changing and in flux it is Lifeworld.

Example 2: When my mother gets hungry, she gets up and wanders through the house. Yesterday, she appeared hungry so I said to her, "go to the kitchen and get something to eat from the fridge". "Yes, I will do that", she replied firmly. Fifteen minutes later, I go to the kitchen, and she was just standing there as if she did not know why she was there. Yet she realized something was wrong, like she failed at something.... (Van Manen, p. 253, 2014)

## Phenomenological Structures



- **Taken for granted** (invisible becomes visible)
- Absence or presence of something (something missing)
- **Manifestations** (something appearing in spotlight)
- **Contradictions** between reality and self (a moment of wonder)





Absence or Presence Theme Example:

On Social Distanced Meetings:

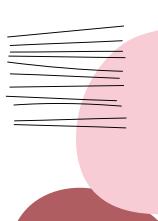
"You only see faces close up When you are a baby in a cradle Or with a lover in bed".

> Source: Embodiment and Social Distancing Proj Journal of Embodied Research (20

#### Contradiction Between Reality & Self Example:

On being diagnosed with a Mental Disorder:

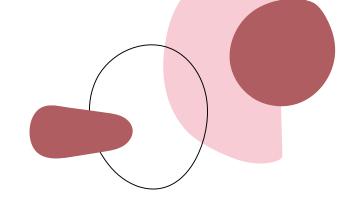
"With few words, he said My private intimate moments had a name Which took away my beauty".



Anonymous (2021)

#### Manifestation Example:

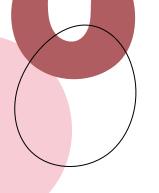
On Pain and being a Patient:



"The body emerges from the background and reclaims our attention in brutal, and merciless ways. When the body does that, we can no longer ignore its centrality in shaping how we think and who we are.

In illness, in disability, in pain, we find that 'bodily events become the events of the day'".

> Resisting the Patient Body, Video Article Pini, S and Pini, R. (2019)



## The Lifeworld



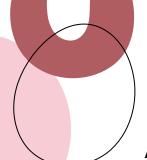


The world in which a person lives

Including their intentions, relationships, actions, and background. Intersubjective experiences

Living with others in complex, everchanging, fluid environment. World as we experience it

Not the world reached by mathematical science ie. not objective



#### What are Lifeworld Experiences?

A Lifeworld has **objects**, that is anything we have intentions towards.

We are conscious and embodied subjects, in the world shared with others.

Experience is based on our **point of view** 

We reside in natural, spatial, temporal, and cultural world, which **changes** and eventually becomes **historic** 

There remains an **unchanging essence** of human subjectivity, which only

continues as an individual continue to think about it

#### <u>Do</u> We Apply Phenomenology?

#### Anecdotes

02

Mostly in the form of ANECDOTES, obtained through interviews

#### **Bracketed Experience**

We identify what parts are phenomenological, because we won't get it immediately

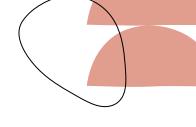
#### **Practical Application**

Everyday lived experiences informs research and practice in the many fields Health, Social Science, Human Services, and Education

#### What is a Phenomenological Anecdote? (Van Manen

- Very short and simple description of a single event.
- Begins close to the central moment of the experience
- Provides more than one quote about a detail
- Closes quickly after the climax
- Often has a punchy end line

# How do we get to the Phenomenon?



We ask one interview question

We inquire into the moments using a phenomenological attitude.

Suspend our own judgements, analysis, reasoning, and disbeliefs

We contemplate people's intentionalities like detached observers

Look for the use of the body or the unconsciousness to sense and describe the lifeworld

## What are We Looking For?

Invariant Structures, the essence of something that makes it unlike anything else;

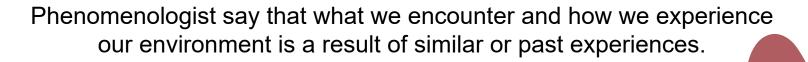
- Expressions of Identity in manifold ways;
- Assumptions of Normality;
- Things that the speaker refuses to shed (beliefs, perceptions, etc.)
- Moments when we were Shocked;
- When we Connect and Disconnect with the Participants.



# Sources:

- Transcripts from interviews
- Participants written accounts of their lived experience
- Responses to Audio, Video, or Artifacts shown to participants
- On site walks and conversations about the location, image, objects in the environment where the person had the experience
- Poems or plays written by the participant
- Researcher journal (record your own observations and thoughts)





We are not representing groups but revealing their embodied history of engaging with people, objects, spaces and places.



#### 03 Indigenous Phenomenology

Physical

Indigenous phenomenology comes from experiences that are grounded in knowledge about: Spiritual/ Natural

Social

Historical

Temporal



#### **Indigenous Phenomenology**

existence



- The individual occupies both the social world and individual world at the same time
- The body perceives the space, grounds the interaction and connects with the world
- Wholeness of an individual is based on his or ties to the world and inseparable and meaningful
  - Knowing is grounded in the body , or embodied
  - Source of knowledge is from the spirit world and history, and from knowing nature and the land, their history of

with others,

#### Indigenous Knowledge

Knowledge comes from many sources ie. dreams, visions, quests, insight, and intuition, but also from an "inner space".

> Embodied knowledge and connectedness leads to meaning found from inner space to outer space

Leads to an understanding that is intuitive, analytic, and metaphorical, consciousnessly and cognitively (Welch, 2019)

### Phenomenology as Decolonizing

#### Respect for Oral Tradition

Does not allow for misrepresentations on the story, invites sharing of holistic ways of knowing, experiential and tribal knowledge, and considers the colonial relationship Promotes indigenous leadership

Gives participant control their story and readdress the loss of culture and meaning in their existence

# Regaining history

Potential to remedy the repression of indigenous past and culture by white people, and the injustice of the colonial system

## Phenomenology as Decolonizing

Is analytically procedural

Is not causal and objective like other (positivistic) study methods "Sally conceives of the world not as being objective, but as a result of spiritual performance."

(Carles Serra Pagès, 2009)



#### Have Indigenous participants

## Noteworthy Examples:

Cite passages from participant stories about their lifeworld

Use a phenomenological approach, that respects Indigenous knowledge



Sharing Lived Experiences and Indigenous Epistemologies in Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Teacher Program (Cook, 2015)

- Interviewed Indigenous and non-Indigenous Participants
- Described the whole phenomenon cumulatively after all stories were told
- Lived experiences of indigenous youths were based on their knowledge and beliefs were based on spirituality and historicity

"A Big Hole with the Wind Blowing Through It": Aboriginal Women's Experience of Trauma and Problem Gambling (Hagen et al., 2013)

- Interview with 7 Aboriginal women
- Used the women's own words about their self-talk and metaphors to create themes
- Problem gambling is used as a means to block out racism and heal from their experiences of colonialism



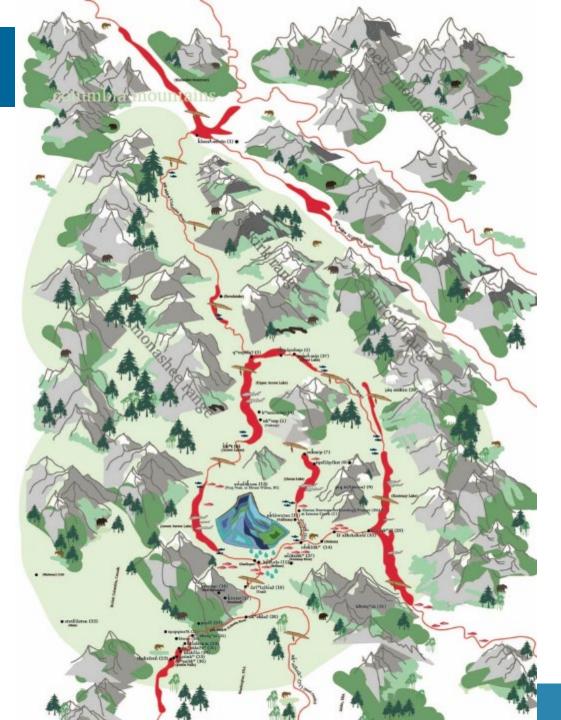
## **Questions?**



**Planners Taking Action** Listening & Learning from the PIBC Climate Action Subcommittee Sharing Circle

#### **Sharing Circle**





#### **Call to Action**

## Buildings



## Transportation



#### Waste



#### Shelter

Connections

Health air food water

#### **Climate Events**

# **2021: A YEAR OF CLIMATE ACTION AND RESPONSE**

/ Patricia Dehnel, RPP, MCIP, Robin Hawker RPP, MCIP, Clarissa Huffman RPP, MCIP, Brian Miller RPP, MCIP Climate Action Subcommittee Members



#### **Sharing stories**



www.alderhill.ca



www.kanakabarband.ca

Community Stories & Sharing: Plenary

Kukpi7 Patrick Michell (Kanaka Bar Indian Band)

<del>o</del>raphic recording by Tiare lani.com

#### **Climate Action Policy: PLACE**



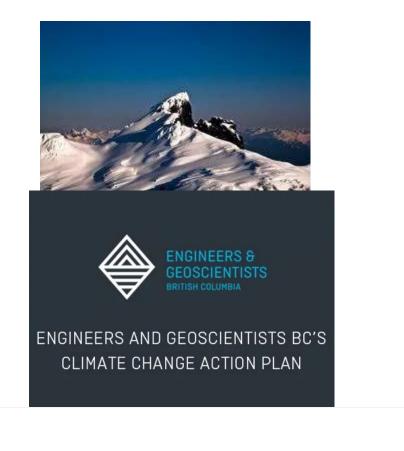
- Capacity Building and Education
- 2. Partnerships
- **3.** Engage and Provide Expertise
- 4. Advocate
- 5. (Lead) Carbon Neutral and Climate Resilience Operations



Placemaking: Connecting People and Place, Elana Madison

nelson at its best

#### Partnership



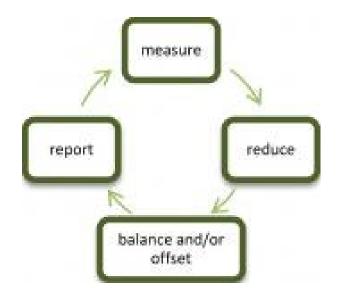




### Lead (Carbon Neutral and Climate Resilience Operations)











#### Advocate

Climate Action Charter commitments for:

- Corporate emissions
- Community emissions
- Complete communities

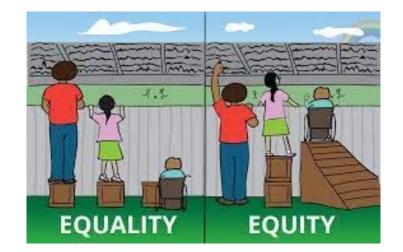
#### cleanBC

Move Commute Connect B.C.'S ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY



## cleanBC

our nature. our power. our future.



### **Capacity Building**



HOW TO BUILD ONMUN LEAVE YOUR HOUSE KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS # GREET PEOPLE LOOK UP WHEN YOU'RE WALKING SIT ON YOUR STOOP V PLANT FLOWERS USE YOUR LIBRARY A PLAY TOGETHER BUY FROM LOCAL MERCHANTS SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE THELP A LOST DOG TAKE CHILDREN TO THE PARK IN HONOR ELDERS SUPPORT NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS FIX IT EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T BREAK IT HAVE POT LUCKS > GARDEN TOGETHER PICK UP LITTER @ READ STORIES ALOUD DANCE IN THE STREET TALK TO THE MAIL CARRIER LISTEN TO THE BIRDS V PUT UP A SWING HELP CARRY SOMETHING HEAVY BARTER FOR YOUR GOODS START A TRADITION SEASK A QUESTION HIRE YOUNG PEOPLE FOR ODD JOBS ORGANIZE A BLOCK PARTY **BAKE EXTRA AND SHARE** ASK FOR HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT OPEN YOUR SHADES W SING TOGETHER SHARE YOUR SKILLS TAKE BACK THE NIGHT TURN UP THE MUSIC # TURN DOWN THE MUSIC LISTEN BEFORE YOU REACT TO ANGER MEDIATE A CONFLICT # SEEK TO UNDERSTAND LEARN FROM NEW AND UNCOMFORTABLE ANGLES KNOW THAT NO ONE IS SILENT THOUGH MANY ARE NOT HEARD WORK TO CHANGE THIS

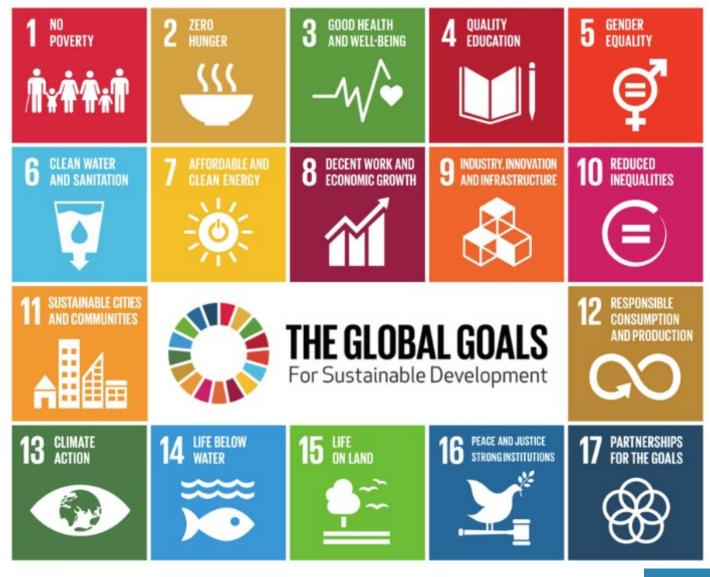
### **Engage and Provide Expertise (Community of Practice)**

Adaptation Learning Network Adaptation to Climate Change Team, SFU Climate Change Guide Industry / Professionals **Clean Air Partnerships** Climate Risk Institute **Community Energy Association** Engineers/Geoscientists Climate Change Action Plan Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions Prairie Climate Centre PIBC Climate Resources / Research



### **Call to Action**





## Thank you

Patricia Dehnel, RPP MCIP Co-chair PIBC Climate Action Sub-Committee patricia@dehnel.com



### Uncommon Answers to Common Planning Questions

(Or the Answers We Wish We Could Give)

Meghan Norman, MCP, RPP, MCIP

### "What's the City going to do to protect my view? I own this view."

# "What is Staff doing to protect single family housing?"



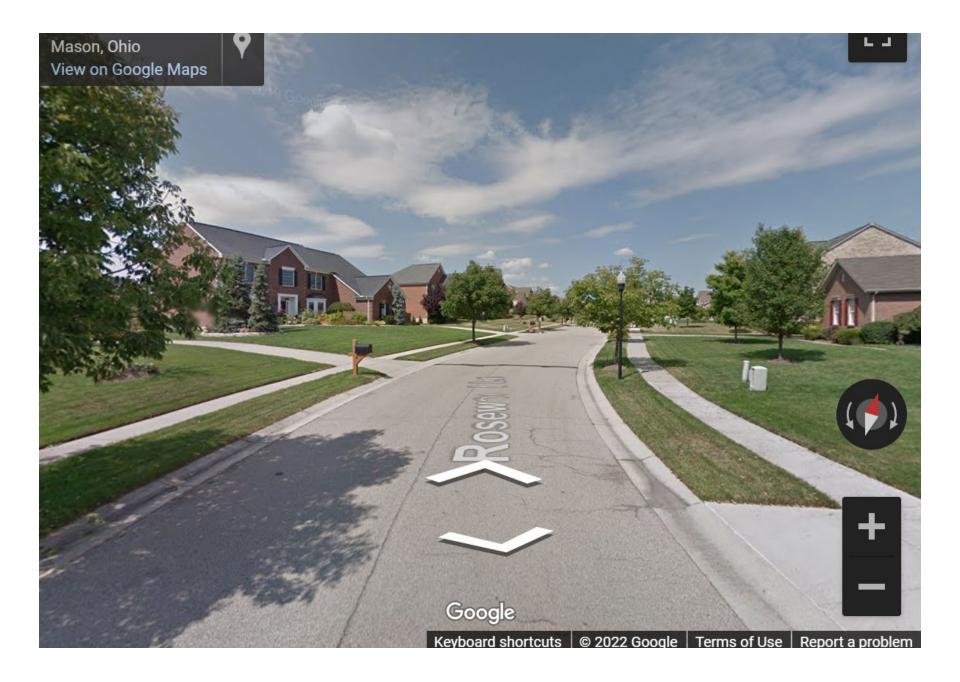
## "How long until we have our permit?"

### "What is my certificate of title?"

### "My neighbour's fence is on my property, what are you going to do about it?"



### "Where will the cars park? They can't park on the road."





"Your zoning permits an industrial storage yard, an eye clinic, and a liquor store – however, you'll have to rezone to permit a dentist office"

"Have you completed the following items prior to scheduling a pre-application meeting, which must be booked 6 months in advance: TIA; servicing study; stormwater report; full architectural and colour palette materials; building elevations; checklist reviewing conformity with development permit guidelines; zoning compliance table; low impact development measures; geotechnical; soil composition study; community engagement report; view assessment; shadow assessment; noise study; and any other items we deem applicable at any time?"

## "Why do city planners love traffic circles?"

