Perception, Technology, and Life-Worlds

PERCEPTION, TECHNOLOGY, and LIFE-WORLDS

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Preface

This book consists of papers I have written during the last ten years.

During these years my main interests lay in two problem areas: one is related to the philosophy of perception and the mind-body problem; and, the other is related to the philosophy and ethics of technology. Papers in the first part of this book concern the former problem area and those in the second part deal with the latter problem area.

These papers were written on various occasions, but my philosophical stance to various problems is not as different as it perhaps seems. My stance could be called phenomenological in the widest sense of the word. When I use the word phenomenology here, I do not mean a specific phenomenology, for example, the phenomenology of Husserl, Heidegger, or Merleau-Ponty. Rather, I mean the common methodological stance these philosophers took when considering various problems. This stance can be expressed using the well-known expression "Back to the things themselves" ("*Zu den Sachen selbst*"). When phenomenologists use the concept "things themselves," they understand them above all as concrete phenomena we experience in our everyday lives. Not objective phenomena dealt with by scientific theories, and not the subjective phenomena normally interpreted to belong to our inner consciousness, but phenomena belonging to the world in which we live are to be considered the basis of philosophical investigation. Objects belonging to this world appear first as colorful things we perceive and meaningful tools we use. These phenomena we encounter in our Life-World are the basis of philosophical analysis, as well as the basis of our every experience. I would like to present this kind of philosophical stance as taking the point of view of the Life-World, which I think belongs to the core of the phenomenological method in the widest sense of the term. Thus, the term Life-Worlds used in the title of the book suggests not only the theme of the book, but also the methodology I take throughout the book.

Many people helped me to write the papers contained to this book on various occasions. Some have invited me to conferences to present a paper, others have invited me to publish a paper in a journal or in a book. People who heard my presentations made friendly and critical comments. I cannot estimate how much I owed them. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of them on this occasion.

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