

# Centre of German Studies JNU

## Philosophy Colloquium

Invites you to the lecture series on:  
'The Idea of a Synthetic Philosophy'

Huzaifa Omair Siddiqi  
Department of English, Ashoka University, Delhi

on:

## Hyle and Phenomenology

The concept of *hyle* or matter remains problematic for phenomenology. As a concept it surfaces in Husserl's *Ideas I* as the "sensuous which has in itself nothing pertaining to intentionality". Yet at the same time it remains undecidable, and undecided, whether *hyle* has intensive function or not. If intentional consciousness requires a duality and unity of intensive *morphe* and sensuous *hyle*, what is the nature of this synthesis between *hyle* and *morphe*? Which term subsumes the other? Husserl's turn towards transcendental idealism makes him prioritize *morphe* as the dominating function that ultimately subsumes all mental processes and bestows sense upon them, even those which are not intentional. However, if *hyle* is constitutive without in itself having a sense, this means that it is the real moment in the process of intentional consciousness. In this talk I will question whether phenomenology can truly think *hyle* without abandoning its fundamental prioritization of the concept of intentionality. What would a hyletic and thus non-intentional phenomenology look like, where the synthesis of *hyle* and *morphe* proceeds from the side of the former rather than the latter? Would this necessitate a rethinking of the transcendental function of synthesis as well, conceptualizing it as a real rather than as an ideal process?

### Time and Date

4.00 p.m., Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### Venue

Committee Room (212)  
School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies  
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi