

The debate on the nature and role of intuitions in contemporary analytic philosophy has led to a broader debate on the nature and justification of philosophical method in general. Through a discussion of an important methodological tool, the thought experiment, I analyze and defend of the use of thought experiments in philosophy proceeding from Wittgenstein's philosophy and Husserl's eidetic phenomenology. I argue that a concept of intuition that wants to explain difference of opinion needs to take into account what Wittgenstein calls *form of life* and defend the claim that thought experiments need to be understood as tools revealing conceptual possibilities through a method of imaginative variation.

Key words: thought experiment, intuition, imagination, Wittgenstein, Husserl, metaphilosophy, phenomenology