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Subjectivity and Empathy: A Steinian Approach

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In this paper, I shall investigate Edith Stein's account of empathic subjectivity in light of the "affective turn" that characterises the current literature on Stein's phenomenology. I shall argue that Stein develops an original approach to empathy that is not restricted to the model of "direct access" to others. I shall claim that, for Stein, empathy is an attitude that shares significant similarities with retention and imagining-how. More precisely, I shall show that the significance of empathy lies in striving to respond appropriately to the other through the constitution of types or examples that involve features inherent in personality and values.