

Bello, Angela Ales. *Edith Stein and Edmund Husserl Philosophical Exchanges.* Trans. by Antonio Calcagno. Maryland: Lexington Books, 2025. pp. 213. ISBN: 9781666957013.

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This book is a collection of journal articles by Angela Ales Bello, an Italian expert on phenomenology and contemporary philosophy. Her writings on Husserl and Stein were put together in one volume. Its main aim: to state in clear terms that Edith Stein can be considered a co-founder of the phenomenological movement, alongside Edmund Husserl, hence the title *Edith Stein and Edmund Husserl: Philosophical Exchanges*. It connotes how the latter influenced the former in a way that the former, as a faithful disciple, became an independent and profound thinker just like her “Master.” On the other hand, the proposal of Bello to make Edith Stein a co-founder alongside Husserl may be an exaggeration to some but coming from an expert like Bello, not only of Edith Stein’s philosophy, but also of phenomenology as a whole, the aim gains a weight that moves the reader to read through the pages of the book.

Bello attempted convincingly in more ways than one that Edith Stein has and should be given a proper place in the phenomenological movement and not merely an acknowledgement or a passing footnote in publications and fora. Her erudition and competence in the thoughts of Stein and Husserl are clearly shown in the pages of her work. In itself, it has a *weight* not only for those who are deepening their knowledge of Stein and Husserl but also for those who have questions on whether Stein and Husserl should be placed *equally* in the phenomenological movement.

Running through the chapters are various topics in phenomenology: I, ego, body, soul, community, society, God, and Aquinas among others. One senses the acumen of Bello in explaining herself and proposing solutions to issues related to phenomenology at large. One such issue is the problem of Husserl reverting to Kantian idealism. We find Bello not coy in defending the Master and thus showing her position contrary to popular perceptions, that holds Husserl returned to Idealism towards the later part of his philosophy. Bello also claims that Edith Stein is closer to Husserl’s position with regards to the issue of Idealism than what most people would like to think. Other issues such as the opposition between idealism and realism and the problem of constitution in phenomenology were tackled by Bello. She offers her own views in an argumentative way based on primary texts and not merely on secondary sources and what other experts on the subjects would like to take. In this perspective, the book acquires significance for Bello opens avenues for further discourses, inviting responses from experts in Stein and Husserl.

Another contribution of the book is how Bello traces the historical development of important phenomenological concepts such as person, body, soul, spirit, ego among others. Philosophy of the Human Person is one of the common themes of the philosophies of Stein and Husserl. Bello expertly guides the readers through the development of the respective thinkers on their take on human person. The author highlights frequently how Stein would develop or at times depart from Husserl's thinking.

Also, not known to many is the religious bend of Husserlian thinking which Bello explains in many parts of the book. Although Husserl is not Catholic, his phenomenology opens up to the religious dimension, inviting future researchers to deepen this point.

Repetition of ideas is something inevitable when one puts into a book form several articles published in various journals in a span of years. But the endnotes, bibliography and the organization of chapters are something to look forward to. Bello's many comments on the endnotes are likewise insightful.

Readers desire a sequel from Bello. Either "Stein and Aquinas" or "Stein and Heidegger" are possibilities. This is something to look forward to eagerly.

We also commend Antonio Calcagno, another expert on Edith Stein, who already translated into English several of Bello's works.

Edith Stein Studies, under Mette Lebech, does not waver in its commitment to publish high quality research on Edith Stein's thought and its relation to contemporary thought. *Edith Stein and Edmund Husserl: Philosophical Exchanges* is an added collection to a series of studies on Edith Stein that exhibits precision and depth to those interested in her thought. This book is already the 5th in the series to date and we fervently wait for other high quality titles in the near future.

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Magboo, Cecilio Vladimir E., OP. *Being A Church of the Poor: The Philippine Catholic Church and the Iglesia Filipina Independiente Towards Growth in Unity and Mission*. Manila: University of Santo Tomas Publishing House, 2023. pp. 440. ISBN 978-971-506-923-6.

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Ecumenism is understood as the task of the Church to uphold Christian unity by reaching out to other believers in Jesus Christ who may have been estranged