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Camps, Churches and Ships. Infrastructures of Empathy and Edith Stein’s Relational Phenomenology in Migration Studies.

The phenomenology of Edith Stein (1891–1942), a philosopher, feminist and theologian, offers valuable ideas and concepts for thinking about humanitarian relationalities under (global) carceral conditions and migration control regimes. Stein’s social phenomenology places “empathy” (Einfühlung) at its heart and enables to theorization of care, solidarity and inclusive community-building. This perspective can provide radical insights into how and why people may engage in everyday geopolitics to counter violent border and migration regimes around the globe. Understanding key sites within global migration regimes such as detention camps, church asylums and rescue ships through the conceptual lens provide by Edith Steins phenomenology can help to reshape research at the nexus of migration studies and geographies of ethics/religion, particularly with a focus on building ‘infrastructures of empathy’ and ‘safe spaces’.