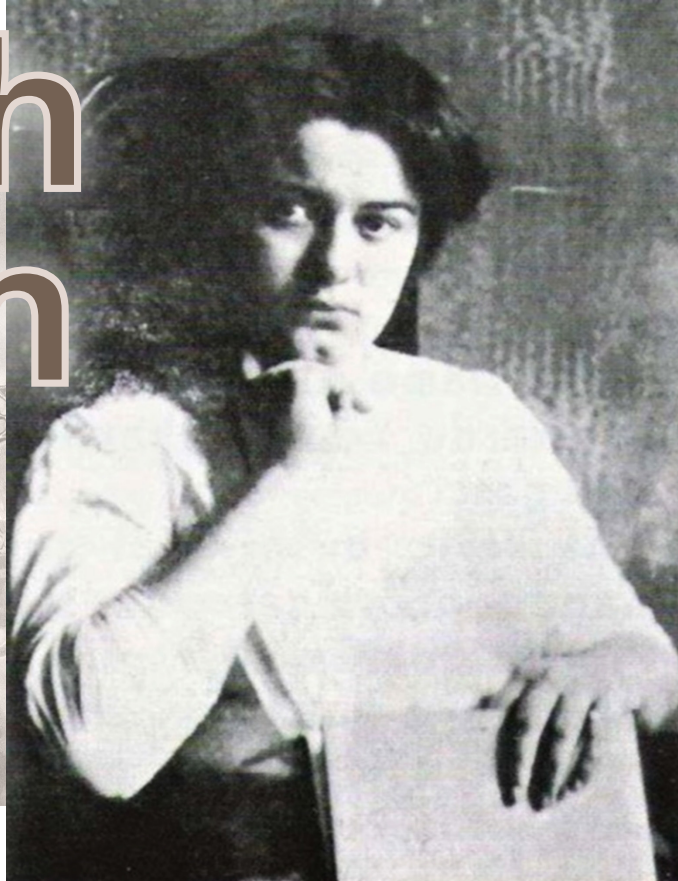


International Conference on

Edith Stein

**Uppsala
April 17–18
2026**



Edith Stein (1891–1942) was a philosopher and religious thinker. Born into a Jewish family, she later converted to Catholicism and entered the Discalced Carmelite order. In 1942 she was deported by the Nazi authorities from the Netherlands and murdered at Auschwitz-Birkenau as part of the Holocaust.

As a philosopher Stein was intellectually engaged in the international debate; trained by Edmund Husserl (1859-1938) she developed an original thought that takes up fundamental questions such as: What is a human person? What values are necessary for the education? Is there a reality beyond consciousness? How should individual rights and social organization be articulated in the modern state?

Practical information:

The Newman Institute is located a five-minute walk from Uppsala Central Station, at Slottsgränd 6. Aula Magna is on the first floor of the white main building.

This is an advanced seminar. It's free of charge, but places are limited. No meals are included, but audience participants may join the Saturday lunch for the price of 150 SEK, if they have pre-registered. Payment is made on site (in cash or via swish). The Newman Institute offers coffee and refreshments during the breaks.

Please register

(and also indicate if you would like to join the lunch) no later than

13 April at:

adm@newman.se

PROGRAM

Aula Magna, Slottsgränd 6, Uppsala

Friday, 17th April

- 14.00—14.30 Reception and coffee
- 14.30—15.15 Patrizia Manganaro: Edith Stein on Empathy and Embodied Consciousness. Intertwining Phenomenology and Aesthetics
- 15.15—16.00 Nichan Piispanen: Empathy and the Problem of Understanding: Phenomenological and Existential Insights from the Early Jaspers and Stein
- 16.00—16.45 (Zoom) Giulia Brunetti: Edith Stein's *Einfühlung*: A Transversal Resource to Build a Better Future
- 16.45—17.30 Ulrika Björk: German-Jewish Crossroads: Edith Stein in Interwar Breslau
- 18.30 Dinner (only for speakers)



Saturday, 18th April

- 9.00—9.45 Angela Ales Bello: The philosophical-phenomenological Anthropology between Edmund Husserl and Edith Stein
- 9.45—10.30 Magdalene Thomassen: "Whoever seeks the truth is seeking God". Philosophy and Theology in the Work of Edith Stein.
- 10.30 Coffee
- 11.00—11.45 Nicoletta Ghigi: Phenomenology and Thomism Compared: the Perspective of Edith Stein.
- 11.45—12.30 Erik Åkerlund: The Human Being, Will, and End in Edith Stein's Philosophical Anthropology
- 12.30 Lunch (at the Institute, finrummet)
- 14.00—14.45 Mårten Björk: Aether and Eternity, or Why the Stars of Heaven One Day Will Circle Around the Earth: Hedwig Conrad-Martius and Edith Stein's Apocalyptic Anthropologies
- 14.45—15.30 Freja Værnskjold Dzougov: Voices of Another Order: Angelic Alterity and Communal Life in the Philosophy of Edith Stein. Alterity and Communal Life in the Philosophy of Edith Stein
- 15.30—16.15 Samuel Wenell: Unknowing in Kreuzeswissenschaft
- 16.15 Coffee
- 16.30—17.15 Christine Zyka: Art as Revelation: Edith Stein and Simone Weil on Genuine and First-Rate Art
- 17.15—18.00 Martina Galvani: Body and Consciousness. Phenomenological Investigations on the Origin and Constitution of the Self in Stein and Husserl
- 18.00—18.45 Nicoletta Braus: Gender Identity and the Human Form Starting from a Steinian Perspective
- 19.00 Dinner (only for speakers)

PARTICIPANTS

Ales Bello, Angela is Professor Emerita of History of Contemporary Philosophy at Lateran University in Rome and past Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy. She is the President of "The Italian Center of Phenomenological Researches" (Rome) affiliated to the World Phenomenological Institute, U.S.A., President of "The International Society of Phenomenology of Religion", Rome, Italy. She is Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Philosophy of the P. University "Antoniano" in Rome, in the Faculty of Psychology of the State University in São Paulo and of the Catholic University in Campinas, Brazil. Her research is directed towards the German Phenomenology in relationship to other contemporary philosophical currents according to a historical and theoretical approach.

Björk, Mårten, Assistant Professor in Systematic Theology at the Newman Institute and member of the research group "At the End of the World" (<https://www.endoftheworld.lu.se>). He has worked on the concept of eternal life in the book *The Politics of Immortality in Rosenzweig, Barth and Goldberg: Theology and Resistance Between 1914–1945* (Bloomsbury, 2022). He recently co-authored the book *The End of Law: Political Theology and the Crisis of Sovereignty* with legal scholar Tormod Johansen, published by Routledge. Assistant Professor in Systematic Theology at the Newman Institute and part of the Research Group "At the End of the World": <https://www.endoftheworld.lu.se>.

Björk, Ulrika, is a Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at Södertörn University in Stockholm. Her main research areas are phenomenology and continental philosophy, early twentieth-century Jewish thought, and feminist philosophy. Since 2024, she has been the Principal Investigator of the research project *Experimenting with Traditions: The Life and Afterlife of Twentieth-Century Jewish Intellectual Culture in the Baltic Sea Region*, funded by the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies. Her current research focuses on the German-Jewish generation of 1914, including Edith Stein, Hannah Arendt, and Walter Benjamin.

Braus, Nicoletta obtained in 2018 a Master's degree from the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, with a thesis entitled *Edith Stein: Corporeal and Spiritual Subjectivity as Foundations for a Shared Morality*. She is currently pursuing a PhD at the Pontifical Lateran University, with a dissertation entitled *Essential Form, Formation, and Fulfillment of the Human Person from the Phenomenology of Edith Stein*. Her research is primarily directed toward an in-depth examination of a Christian vision of the human person in the contemporary era.

Brunetti, Giulia is a Teaching Fellow in Theoretical Philosophy at the University of Perugia. She got a PhD in Human Sciences, Philosophical curriculum - joint PhD with Sophia University Institute -, discussing a thesis titled *L'orizzonte del mito e lo sguardo sull'umano in Martha C. Nussbaum (The Horizon of Myth and the Gaze on Human in Martha C. Nussbaum)*. During her PhD, she spent a research period at Duke University (North Carolina, US). Brunetti won a Research Fellowship at the University of Perugia, collaborating on "A theory of retrospective responsibility as part of the system of social and moral action control" PRIN (Projects of National Relevance and Interest).

Galvani, Martina is currently a research fellow at the University of Trento and an appointed lecturer at the Interdiocesan Theological Institute (STI) of Reggio Emilia; she has also served as an adjunct lecturer in History of Philosophy at the University of Perugia. Her research focuses on the thought of Antonio Rosmini, with particular attention to anthropological themes, as well as on German phenomenology, especially the philosophy of Edith Stein. She is a member of the Italian Edith Stein Association (AIES) and serves on the board of the Rosmini Study Center in Rovereto.

Ghigi, Nicoletta is Professor of Theoretical Philosophy at the Department of Philosophy of the University of Perugia. For years she has been studying the phenomenology of Edmund Husserl, Edith Stein, Conrad-Martius, and Max Scheler. She is a member of the Italian Center for Phenomenological Research and of the Italian Edith Stein Association.

(continued on next page)

PARTICIPANTS

Manganaro, Patrizia is Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, Full Professor of History of Contemporary Philosophy and Philosophy of Language, Director of the Research Area "Edith Stein and Contemporary Thought" at the Pontifical Lateran University, Vatican City, Rome. Her publications deal topics such as phenomenology of life, consciousness and psyche, empathy and mystical experience, narcissism, transhumanism and living body experience.

Piispanen, Nichan completed his PhD in 2026 at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome with a dissertation entitled "Existential Foundations of AI Ethics: A Jaspersian Analysis of Responsibility, Risk, and Vulnerability in the Age of Autonomous Systems." His research centers on the philosophy of Karl Jaspers, in dialogue with the work of Hannah Arendt, Jeanne Hersch, and Edith Stein. He is the editor of a bilingual German-Swedish edition of Karl Jaspers' *Die Schuldfrage* and is currently engaged in several ongoing translation projects of Karl Jaspers' works into Swedish and English.

Thomassen, Magdalene is professor em in philosophy at VID Specialized University, Oslo (Norway). She holds a doctorate from Sorbonne-Paris IV and has published several books and articles with a particular focus on contemporary French philosophy. She has also published on issues in phenomenology and the philosophy of religion, including several publications on the work of Edith Stein.

Værnskjold Dzougov, Freja is a ph.d.-student of systematic theology at Aarhus University (Denmark). Her dissertation is about the role of angels in 20th century philosophy.

Wenell, Samuel is a PhD candidate in church history and mission history at the Department of Theology, Uppsala University. His dissertation project *Buying Bodies, Saving Souls. The Swedish Mission to the Jews of Vienna 1938-1941* deals with the economy, organization, and management of the missionary society Svenska Israelsmissionen.

Zyka, Christine is a lecturer in philosophy and Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the Newman Institute, Uppsala. She completed her PhD at the Université catholique de Lyon in 2013, with a dissertation on the aesthetics of Simone Weil. Her research focuses primarily on aesthetics and contemporary continental philosophy. She has published several articles on Weil, particularly in French.

Åkerlund, Erik (PhD Uppsala University, 2011) is lecturer in philosophy and director of studies at the Newman Institute, Uppsala (Sweden). He specializes in the history of philosophy, especially Scholastic philosophy of the 16th and 17th centuries. Thematically, he mainly works on different topics in metaphysics, epistemology, aitiology and philosophical anthropology.

The conference is organized in collaboration between The [Newman institute](#) and [Periechon Förlag AB](#).



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