Empathy Spectrum

Empathetic Receptivity  (Passive)

(Stimuli)
Sensing/noticing the communicability of affect

Empathetic Understanding

(Disposition)
Acknowledging the other’s relatedness

Empathetic Interpretation  (Active)

(Processing)
Development of the first-, second-, and third-person perspectives

Empathetic Responsivity  (Responding)

Articulating gratefulness for gifting emotionality

Hume’s Development

Mental Mirroring

Delicate Sympathy

Delicacy of Taste in Aesthetics

Benevolence in Ethics
Part 1: Foundations for Empathy

Hume’s Four Uses of Sympathy

1. Mental Mirroring: “Data-gathering capacity,” receptivity
2. Delicate Sympathy: Orienting disposition, re-focusing of senses
3. Delicacy of Taste in Aesthetics: Savouring the other’s experience
4. Benevolence in Ethics: Helping the other, imploring moral duties

Caveat: Unlike Taste, empathy does not assume that all people have the same capacity to use the senses in the same way.

Kant’s Aesthetics of Taste

“Possibility of relatedness”

1. Respect: Second-person approach to beauty
2. Reflective Judgement: Third-person perspective processing of beauty

Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)
Part 2: Approaches to Empathy

Lipps’ Projective Empathy

Pros: emphasized the intrinsic value of consciousness in a body and gave us a convenient, linear mechanism

Con: fell into the logical flaw of “subreption,” falsely attributing someone else’s mental state to yourself.

Husserl’s Counterargument

We have the capacity to understand another without imitating them. This also respects and preserves the uniqueness of the “other.”

Stein’s Redemption of the Sui Generis

While the experience the other is sharing is their’s, we have a unique, first-person access to the empathetic forum in which the experience is being shared. This supports the random, non-linear mechanism that occurs between people during empathetic sharing.
Part 3: Understanding Our Relationships

Types of Roles.

1. Professional/Indirect
   ex) empathizing with a mailman

2. Personal/Direct
   ex) empathizing with the mailman as your husband

Contexts of Bodily Expression:

1. Expressive Movements
   Not relevant to empathy

2. Expressive Acts
   Relevant to empathy

Empathy Cue:
Directness of relationship to the “other”