

palgrave
macmillan

'An insightful and provocative exploration of a topic that has only recently begun to receive the attention it deserves and the conceptual clarity needed for a proper understanding. Agosta's study is rich in historical context and thorough in covering the intersections of philosophy and psychology on the question of empathy. It is also accessible and stimulating for a host of applications to current concerns. Agosta rightly, in my view, finds in Heidegger a primary vehicle for advancing the discussion, yet he has his own voice and sense of how to think it through. An impressive achievement.'

— Lawrence J. Hatab, Louis I. Jaffe Professor of Philosophy, Old Dominion University

'That much used and routinely abused word, "empathy", has enjoyed an uncomfortable popularity in fields as disparate as politics and psychoanalysis. At last a philosopher has arrived to bring clarity to the confusion. Lou Agosta has brought together the salient points about empathy as seen in phenomenology, psychoanalysis and literature into a happy home under Heidegger, who called for a "special hermeneutic of empathy", but did not give one. Agosta delivers it. The book is a must-read for anyone who chooses to use the word again.'

— Arnold Goldberg, Professor of Psychiatry Rush University Medical College, author of *Misunderstanding Freud*.

This work begins from our Socratic ignorance of empathy. It applies four philosophical methods – phenomenology, self psychology, language analysis, and interpretive suspicion (hermeneutics) to generating a clearing for empathy as authentic being with one another in community. In philosophical empathy, the other individual humanizes the one who, in turn, give humanity back to the other in everyday empathy. Examples of empathy in story telling, literature, self psychology, and neurology explore the scope of empathy as the foundation for the community of fellow travelers in finitude. The inquiry is initially guided by Martin Heidegger's call for a "hermeneutic of empathy". It is informed by Edmund Husserl's posthumous writings on empathy, and it integrates the contribution of the Anglo-American tradition of John Searle. The result is an exposure of the deep structure of empathy as a fundamentally human capability for creating possibilities of community and human relations.

Lou Agosta has taught philosophy at Roosevelt University, Loyola University, DePaul University, St. Xavier College and Oakton Community College, Chicago, IL, USA.

ISBN 978-0-230-24183-1



9 780230 241831

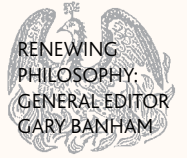


Printed in Great Britain

www.palgrave.com

palgrave
macmillan

EMPATHY IN THE CONTEXT OF PHILOSOPHY
LOU AGOSTA



EMPATHY IN THE CONTEXT OF PHILOSOPHY



LOU AGOSTA

