

Future Directions in Feminist Phenomenology
The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario
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David Chu International Centre, WSS 2130

Dr. Linda Fisher, Central European University
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Illness, Voice, and Intersubjectivity

ABSTRACT

The relationship between voice and intersubjectivity has yet to be thoroughly explored by phenomenologists. Both in terms of the conceptual understanding of voice as the expression of a personality, viewpoint, as representation – someone or something that is heard; and also in terms of the concrete materiality of the living embodied voice. By examining the role of the voice in the constitution and presentation of the self, particularly in its expressive and mediating function, we gain important insights into the nature of intersubjectivity and the relation of self to others. Developing a phenomenology of voice is also an investigation into the way the voice is both constitutive and reflective of dimensions of social and embodied identity, such as gender, race, and disability/ability, contributing to the constitution of subjective and social identities. In undertaking a phenomenology of voice, we thus elucidate the crucial role played by the voice in subjective and intersubjective positionings and intercorporeal encounters and relations, and its significance for phenomenological research, while highlighting the significance and voice of feminist phenomenology itself.