

Course information

Feminist ethics of care – genealogies and uses from mothering to respons-ability (an adaptable reading course) (2,5 hp)

Kursperiod: HT22

Pace: Halvfart, on demand

Språk: English

Kursansvarig: Cecilia Åsberg, cecilia.asberg@liu.se

Content: FEMINIST ETHICS OF CARE – GENEALOGIES AND USES: AN ADAPTABLE READING COURSE

Joan Tronto, a feminist philosopher and theorist of democracy, defined an ethic of care as any approach to personal, social, moral, and political life that starts from the reality that all human beings need and receive care and give care to others. The care relationship among humans are part of what mark us as human beings, that we always are interdependent beings. Early on, Joan Tronto and Berenice Fisher defined care widely: "On the most general level, we suggest that caring be viewed as a species activity that includes everything that we do to maintain, continue, and repair our 'world' so that we can live in it as well as possible." STS and multispecies feminist scholars took this understanding of care to a both local and planetary level, at once. Donna Haraway, keen to not root politics in identity, purity or mothering, introduced the powerful concept of "respons-ability". This makes care, care work and caring a reciprocal activity of attuning into also to the nonhumans that co-constitute the world, enabling all kinds of responses to the continuous crisis of living in capitalist ruins in the Anthropocene. María Puig de la Bellacasa's 2017 book *Matters of Care*, following Haraway's trajectory of multispecies care, bring together three dimensions of care – as an affective state, a material-doing and practice, and an ethico-political obligation. Architectural theorist Elke Krasny *et al's* edited volume on *Radicalizing Care* brings together curatorial and creative practices, hacking and design in a multidisciplinary compilation that evidence the versatility of feminist care ethics today.

In this course, we read Tronto, Bellacasa, Haraway and selected chapters from Krasny, alongside critiques of feminist ethics of care (as a virtue ethic of individualism and self-control) and two individually selected theoretical texts on the topic that suit the research of the course participants.

Arbetsformer: The joint reading is distributed and individual readings selected before summer 2022. In the fall, we meet for joint zoom reading seminars on two occasions.

Assignment: Prepare for each joint zoom webinar a through presentation of your own individual reading and take-home message from the joint and from the individually selected readings. In your presentation, you are to introduce and situate your own research and how the ethics of care responds with your own work. Explore limitations and affordances of the various approaches.

Examination: The two webinar presentations, one for each seminar, form the basis for examination. Understandings of the literature are assessed and discussed in a self-reflexive manner, and this demands active participation and interjections in the zoom webinar at large with all the other participants, ensuring a careful interdisciplinary dialogue between the participants. Examined as pass/fail.

Course reading:

Syllabus is shared with the participants in advance, and the individual selections made. In the later fall of 2022 we read, map out historiographically, and discuss the following joint reading:

Bellacasa, María Puig de la (2017) *Matters of Care: Speculative Ethics in More-than-human worlds*.

Krasny, Elke, Sophie Lingg, and Lena Fritsch (2021) *Radicalizing Care Feminist and Queer Activism in Curating—An Introduction*. 288 pages. (read selectively)

Whyte, K. P., Cuomo, C. J., Gardiner, S. M., & Thompson, A. (2016). Ethics of caring in environmental ethics. *The Oxford handbook of environmental ethics*, 234.

Stine Krøijer, Cecilie Rubow; Introduction: Enchanted Ecologies and Ethics of Care. *Environmental Humanities* 1 July 2022; 14 (2): 375–384. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1215/22011919-9712456>

Tronto, Joan. "An Ethic of Care." In *Feminist Theory: A Philosophical Anthology*, edited by Cudd, Anne E. and Andreasen, Robin O., 251–62. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2005.

TRONTO, Joan. A feminist democratic ethics of care and global care workers: Citizenship and responsibility. *Feminist ethics and social policy: Towards a new global political economy of care*, 2011, 162-177.