

Symposium: Why Care?

From care for the environment to care for the young and elderly, from mental health care to humanitarian care, from care understood as an obligation, as a gift, or as an affect, from the intimacy of care among loved ones, to the work of care giving in institutional settings, to the responsibility to care for those one does not know, the notion of 'care' encompasses a proliferating field of diverse relations. The question of care presents a central ethical and political challenge that is bound up with the increasing regulation and management of care relations by governmental institutions as well as its privatization, quantification, and commodification on the global market. As a result, certain kinds of care – for certain people, animals, things, or the environment – are dismissed or ignored in the name of ostensibly more urgent, more practical, and often more profitable concerns.

To ask: Why care? is to critically explore the massive mobilization of care in modern life. It interrogates the biopolitical ambivalences of the modern institutionalization of care as well as the prevailing economies and economics of care regarding what counts as care, the value of care, and its differential allocation. The question: Why care? also provides occasion to attend to alternative or ignored forms of care – and to reflect on how these might be made explicit by means of new forms of critique and intersectional analysis based on diverse alternative notions of community and interdependence. Rather than idealizing certain kinds of care, we hope to make time for care as an affective and communal practice in our more than human worlds in which relations of inclusion and exclusion, empowerment and debilitation, autonomy and dependence, tenderness and terrorization are not only constituted but also contested. We seek to better understand prevailing regimes of care and explore under-represented or unacknowledged practices of care in the past and present.

An ICI Event in collaboration with the Waiting Times project of Birkbeck, University of London and the University of Exeter



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Symposium

5–6 July 2018, ICI Berlin, in English



IMAGE CREDIT © CLAUDIA PEPPEL, COLLAGE (DETAIL)

Why Care?

Organized by
Birkan Taş and
Benjamin Lewis Robinson

Programme

Thursday, 5 July 2018

**19:30 Keynote by Lisa Baraitser
On Time, Care and Not Moving On**

Taking up the themes of her recent book *Enduring Time*, this talk will offer some reflections on the relations between time and care. Care is often assumed to be a set of practices that take the form of an affective engagement with others, so that we can maintain, sustain, and repair the world. Yet care can also be thought about as a political and ethical decision to remain in what Christina Sharpe calls 'the wake': the ongoing disastrous time of the persistent effects of slavery. Remaining, for Sharpe, involves inhabiting and rupturing the wake's elongated temporality. From this perspective, Baraitser will argue that care is bound up with histories of the antithesis of care, or failures of care, that bring on ways of thinking that we may also need to take care of and involve the temporal practices of staying alongside others and ideas when care has failed; waiting, staying, delaying, enduring, repeating, and returning as the temporal forms that care takes. Some psychoanalytic resources will help to think about the chronic and interminable, and the repetitive and developmental, in order to better understand the intersections between time, care, and not moving on.

Lisa Baraitser is Professor of Psychosocial Theory in the Department of Psychosocial Studies at Birkbeck, University of London. She was awarded a collaborative award (with Laura Salisbury) from the Wellcome Trust for 'Waiting Times', a five-year cycle of research on temporality and care in health contexts (mental health treatment, the GP encounter, and end of life care). She is the author of an award-winning monograph, *Maternal Encounters: The Ethics of Interruption* (2009) and *Enduring Time* (2017), and the editor of *A Feeling for Things*, a collection of essays on the work of Jane Bennett (forthcoming). She is co-editor of the online, peer-reviewed journal *Studies in the Maternal* and co-convenor of Mapping Maternal Subjectivities, Identities and Ethics (MAMSIE), an international interdisciplinary research network on motherhood. Baraitser is a psychodynamic psychotherapist in independent practice, and a candidate at the Institute of Psychoanalysis, London. She was previously the Artistic Director of an experimental theatre collective known as PUR.

Friday, 6 July 2018

9:45	Morning Coffee
10:00 – 10:15	Introductions
10:15 – 11:45	Panel I – Waiting Times Lisa Baraitser (BIRKBECK, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON) Laura Salisbury (UNIVERSITY OF EXETER) Deborah Robinson (UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH) Raluca Soreanu (BIRKBECK, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON) Martin Moore (UNIVERSITY OF EXETER)
11:45 – 12:15	Coffee Break
12:15 – 13:00	Panel II – Curating Taraneh Fazeli (BEMIS CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS, OMAHA) Magdalena Jadwiga Härtelova (BERLIN)
13:00 – 14:15	Lunch
14:15 – 15:45	Panel III – Careful Reading John Hamilton (HARVARD UNIVERSITY) Kasia Mika (KITLV, LEIDEN) Laura Salisbury (UNIVERSITY OF EXETER) Benjamin Lewis Robinson (UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA)
15:45 – 16:15	Coffee Break
16:15 – 16:45	Intervention – Anton Kats
16:45 – 17:00	Coffee Break
17:00 – 18:30	Panel IV – Decolonial Healing Daniela Agostinho (UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN) Kateřina Kolářová (CHARLES UNIVERSITY, PRAGUE) Vasuki Shanmuganathan (YORK UNIVERSITY, CANADA) Birkan Taş (ICI BERLIN)
18:45 – 19:30	Performance The Battlefield Nurse by Jeremy Wade