



UiO  **Institute of Health and Society**
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Ethics of Care – Scandinavian Perspectives

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Outline

- Background, limitations and inspirations.
- Challenges and strengths
- Important research programs
- The future?

Background and Inspirations – EOC I

- The Historical Tradition of Medicine and Nursing.
 - Hippocratic virtue.
 - The personal and the professional
 - Protestant and Catholic Traditions of Nursing in Norway.
 - Illness and Empathy
 - Compassion and Mercy.
- An Existential and Relational Moral Demand

The Ethical Demand – Phenomenology

EOC II

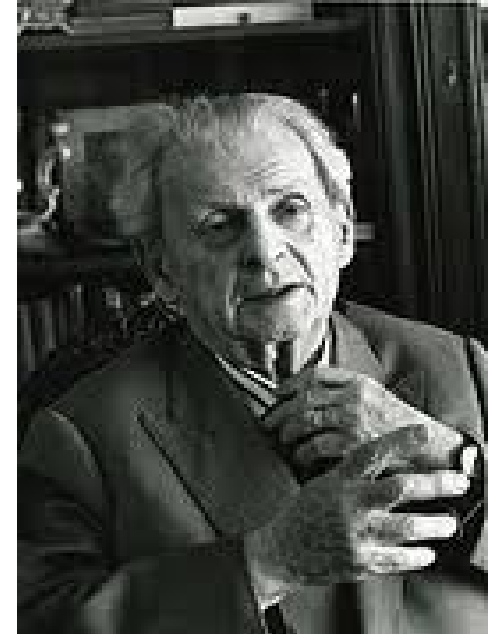
- The Ethical demand.
 - Uncontradictible
 - Existential and experiential.
 - Spontaneous
 - Direct empathic perception



Kari Martinsen, Norway

The Moral Demand - Phenomenology

- Kant: "While we do not comprehend the practical unconditioned necessity of the moral imperative, we do comprehend its *incomprehensibility*" (, p.139, Grundlegung,)
- Levinas and Critchley: This movement of incomprehensibility in ethics: Being-for-the Other".
- Moral sensitivity



The Normative Value of Relationships

EOC III

- Relationships constitute our common humanity (S. Scheffler 2002).
- Ethics of Care – Relational Ontology and partiality

Mapping the Normative Terrain of an Ethics of Care

- Aim: Investigate EOC as a normative theory
 - Theoretical: To investigate the moral significance of partiality in care (Nordhaug).
 - Empirical: To investigate moral considerations and motivations of care in the practical and clinical work of doctors and nurses (Skirbekk, Hem, Nortvedt).
 - *Special Issues*: The Journal of Nursing Ethics... and Health care Analysis, March 2011,

The Future – tensions and unsolved Questions

- On the Role of Altruism in Care – self-concern and other-concern.
- The normative nature of moral sensitivity and the diversity of moral sensitivities.
- A Reasonable Partiality, the Normative Significance of Relationships.
- Care and the Virtues.