

Care Ethics in Canada
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Would you consider Ethics of Care an area of interest in your country? What makes you think yes/no? And if yes, in what way?

I think there is a clear interest for the ethics of care in Canada. There have been university conferences and research seminars on the issue in different fields of the humanities, including literature, political science, and philosophy. Law scholars have also been vocal about the importance of a care ethics perspective within a law paradigm, especially in the context of policy making and gendered workplace issues. Contemporary Canadian political and social crises as well as issues of increased vulnerability and invisibility for marginalized populations (Indigenous people, precarious workers, and refugees, among others) expose a particular moment in Canadian history and in Canadian (if not Western) cultural productions: the publication of dystopias, speculative fiction, life writing, non-fiction, testimonies and events such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Report have shed light on attempts to reshape, repair, heal, anticipate, understand, denounce and provide an opportunity for expressing injustices of many kinds. The ethics of care can certainly participate in these processes and have gained a certain popularity in academia.

Could you give a general impression about (the status of) Ethics of Care in your country?

The conversation about care ethics is present in academia. For instance, there are four Canadian academics from the fields of human ecology, psychology, and health geography on the editorial board of the new multidisciplinary *International Journal of Care and Caring*. Literary scholar Amelia DeFalco's 2016 *Imagining Care: Responsibility, Dependency, and Canadian Literature* challenges, through key pieces of literature, the myth of Canada as being a caring society. Julie Perreault and Sophie Bourgault's recent collection of essays on feminist care ethics, published in French in Québec, sheds light on the multidisciplinary purposes of care ethics, and the emergence of a conversation between the ethics of care and Canadian and Québécois literatures has contributed to giving more visibility and scope to the field. International conferences have been and are being organized on the subject in Canadian universities and there have been discussions about care ethics in the mainstream media, in both official languages.

Would you find different schools or movements in the area of Ethics of Care? If so, how would you describe them? What are the main similarities and main differences? Could you give names of care ethicists representing these schools/movements?

I am mostly familiar with the place of care ethics in the humanities, and I have not conducted a thorough survey in every Canadian university. That being said, there is a "branch" of the ethics of care that focuses on the gendered aspect of work and labor (emotional, domestic, caretaking, etc.), such as the work of scholars Naïma Hamrouni

and Agnès Berthelot-Raffard. Others, like human ecology and home economics scholars Janet Fast and Norah Keating, focus on issues of aging and assistive caregiving technologies, while scholars like Donna Lero work, among other issues, on family relations and family caregivers. Fiona Robinson's work on social policy and politics in a global economy is very well known in the field of care ethics, much like that of Sophie Cloutier on hospitality and political philosophy. Other fields such as nursing, health care, and law also contribute to the discussion. I am obviously more familiar with the work of literary scholars. Some rely on Paul Ricoeur and Carol Gilligan, like Marjolaine Deschênes, to argue for a "caring literature," or use care ethics in the development of a metafeminist critique, like Marie Carrière, or in representations and experiences of mourning, like Maïté Snauwaert. Amelia DeFalco, whose literary expertise meets mine in developing the critical idea of "posthuman care," was one of the first scholars to question the place and function of care in Canadian society and narratives.

Which are the major publications in the area of Ethics of Care in your country?

The list of articles would be too long, but a few key publications come to mind. I would recommend Amelia DeFalco's *Imagining Care: Responsibility, Dependency, and Canadian Literature* and Fiona Robinson's *The Ethics of Care: A Feminist Approach to Human Security*. Julie Perreault and Sophie Bourgault's *Le care. Éthique féministe actuelle* is another publication that highlights the multidisciplinary and collaborative aspect of care ethics. Sherilyn MacGregor's *Beyond Mothering Earth: Ecological Citizenship and the Politics of Care* is another important piece that shows the necessary work being done at the intersection of care ethics and environmental studies/ecocriticism.