

Politics of Care Seminar Series

A four-part webinar series about the political opportunity of engaging men in an ethic of care.

This seminar series will be presented in four parts, and follow a systematic discussion about various elements of care, within an ethic of care. The feminist notion of an ethic of care can be placed alongside an ethic of justice, or opposed to an ethic of profit. Foremost of the critiques of an ethic of care is the notion that a care ethic is an overly sentimental and utopian notion, without much influence in so-called important politics and decisions. Joan Tronto countered these through her book *Moral Boundaries*, and made a significant contribution to care theory. She demonstrated how care and women have been contained by societal moral 'boundaries' and offered a political argument for increasing society's regard for care. This seminar series applies the moral and political argument that Tronto developed for an ethic of care to the project of engaging men in the practice of care as it relates to our world and the people who live in it. The boundaries that have contained the political influence of care for people also prevent a serious consideration of the value of care of the natural environment. We will explore the intersectionality of care given and received from the natural environment, and engage with the themes of environmental care and justice in each session.

The content presented draws on an extended case study done over three years with families based in South Africa, and on relevant intersectional feminist, critical masculinities, and moral philosophy discourses. The four titles of the series are:

- 1) Politics of Care 1: Men *caring about*...
- 2) Politics of Care 2: Men *taking care of*...
- 3) Politics of Care 3: Men *giving care to*...
- 4) Politics of Care 4: Men *receiving care from*...

Each virtual seminar will consist of a provocation presented by Wessel van den Berg, from Sonke Gender Justice, followed by a critically argued response from a small panel of

respondents, who either have been involved with, or are involved with the MenCare Global Fatherhood campaign, and will then conclude with an open forum discussion with attendants. Confirmed panelists include Rukia Cornelius (Oxfam South Africa), Mbuyiselo Botha (South African Commission for Gender Equality), Gary Barker (Promundo), and Tomas Agnemo (Plan Sweden).