Caring as a Virtue

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November 27, 2021

Care as a Virtue

Curzer: "a point at which three of the most fashionable recent movements in ethics (virtue ethics, medical ethics, feminist ethics) intersect."

- Thesis A: care as emotional attachment (liking, loving, etc.)
    - No: "Emotional attachment is incidental and destructive to the practice."
- Thesis B1: benevolence is a role virtue for HCPs
- Thesis B2: benevolence disposes HCPs to perform caring acts.

Howard Curzer, 1993, is Care a Virtue for Health Care Professionals, The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy 18: 51-69,1993
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/14766358_Is_Care_a_Virtue_for_Health_Care_Professionals
https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/the-virtue-of-care.html

Title image: https://www.animal-ethics.org/ethics-animals-section/ethical-theories-nonhuman-animals/virtue-ethics-care-ethics/
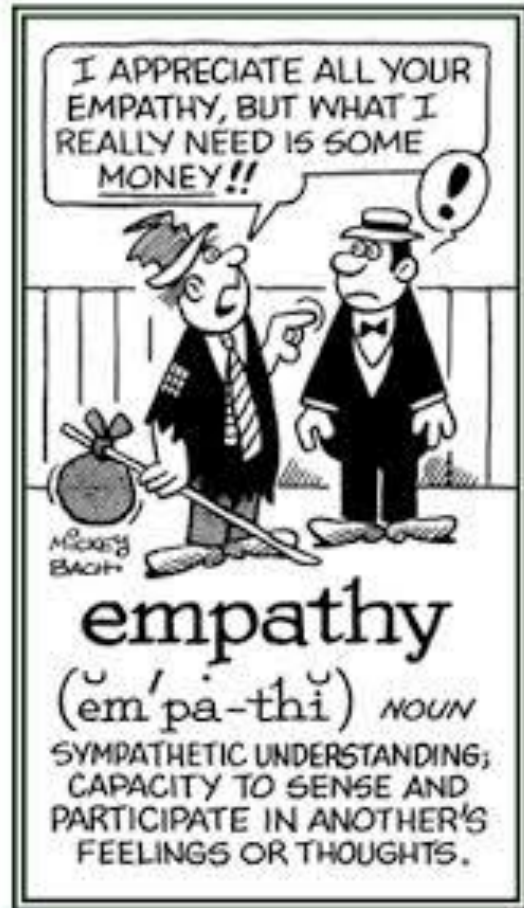
Authority

Savage & Savage (2010) suggest that "...developing productive leadership in the classroom is based on the establishment of expert and referent authority" (p. 31). http://classroommanagementdiscipline.weebly.com/authorityleadership.html

- It is common in most cultures to view the teacher as an authority

- Noddings:
  - Teachers feel a duty "to know and to use our knowledge to initiate the young into a community of knowing."
  - "But the world is now so enormously complex that we cannot reasonably describe one model of an educated person."
  - Carers dedicted to their own view of what the cared-for should be and do lack integrity

Empathy

- Some writers interested in care ethics put great emphasis on empathy (Hoffman, 2000; Slote, 2007)
  - "Martin Hoffman, 'empathy is the cognitive awareness of another person's internal states, that is, his thoughts, feelings, perceptions, and intentions' and 'the vicarious affective response to another person'
- Empathy may be related to the motivational effect of care
- But it isn't a substitute for an expressed response; "the response of the cared-for completes the caring relation. Without it, there is no caring relation - no matter how hard the carer has tried to care."

https://ieag.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Noddings-2012-1.pdf

Empathy as Sensation

- "This paper serves not only to show that empathy (a notion at the heart of the phenomenology of sociality) takes place online but opens the door to a rich array of phenomenological investigations in relation to our experiences online."
https://philpapers.org/archive/OSLTEO.pdf

- Cognitive vs. Emotional Empathy, Jodi Clarke
https://www.verywellmind.com/cognitive-and-emotional-empathy-4582389

Caring Capacities

- Noddings: "people have various capacities for caring - that is, for entering into caring relations as well as for attending to objects and ideas." (p.18)
- Factors that curtail our ability to care:
  - the social construction of caring as feminine and thus less worthwhile;
  - the churn of clients through the institution
  - associated responsibilities caused by digital technology
  - work-related stress can activate implicit biases, which unconsciously distance personnel from members of stigmatized groups and contribute to health care disparities.

https://www.amazon.ca/Capacity-Care-Gender-Ethical-Subjectivity/dp/0415399688

http://mehrmohammadi.ir/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/The-Challenge-to-Care-in-School-Nel-Noddings.pdf

Brooke A. Cunningham, 2016, Our capacity to care, https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29195522/

Virtuous Dispositions

Tronto identifies four sub-elements of care that can be understood simultaneously as stages, virtuous dispositions, or goals. These sub-elements are:

- *attentiveness*, a proclivity to become aware of need;

- *responsibility*, a willingness to respond and take care of need;

- *competence*, the skill of providing good and successful care; and

- *responsiveness*, consideration of the position of others as they see it and recognition of the potential for abuse in care (1994, 126-136).

Joan C. Tronto. An Ethic of Care. In Ethics in Community-Based Elder Care by Martha Holstein
https://www.iep.utm.edu/care-eth/   --
https://books.google.com.br/books?hl=en&lr=&id=wYBLxZcU8zYC&oi=fnd&pg=PA60&dq=tronto+care+ethics&ots=8m-5tOWTIe&sig=z6rRbR-63R-XXXVFHa6ISHQC6Gw#v=onepage&q=tronto%20care%20ethics&f=false

Unequal Relationships

- Sarah Lucia Hoagland argues that the relationships in question, such as parenting and teaching, are ideally relationships where caring is a transitory thing designed to foster the independence of the cared-for, and so end the unequal caring relationship.

- Unequal relationships, she writes, are ethically problematic, and so a poor model for an ethical theory. Hoagland argues that on Noddings' account of ethical caring, the one-caring is placed in the role of the *giver* and the cared-for in the role of the *taker*. The one-caring is dominant, choosing what is good for the cared-for, but gives without receiving caring in return. The cared-for is put in the position of being a dependent