

Exploring the Ethics of Care and Empathy

Week 6



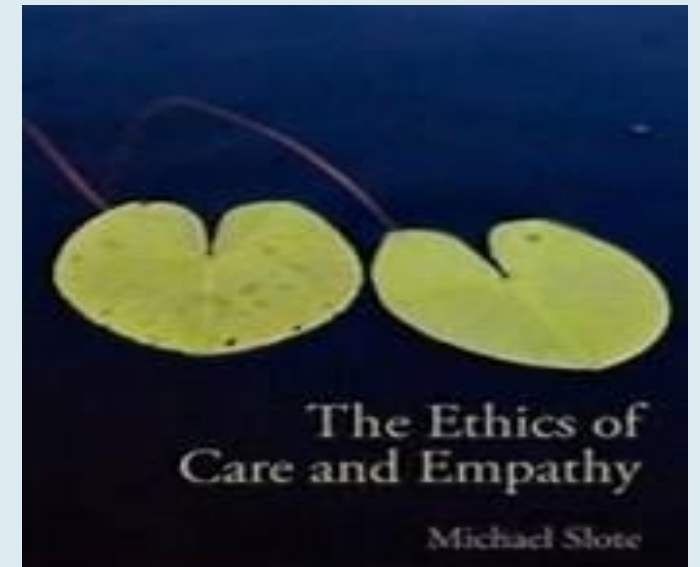
Schedule for Today

- Review Ethics of Care
- Ethics of Care and Empathy
- Moving towards a Global Ethics
- Ethical dilemmas/Moral Dilemmas –
Examples

Michael Slote

The ethics of care and empathy

2007, Oxon, Routledge.



Slote

- His work consists of a response to many people writing about Care Ethics.
- As his book suggests, his major point refers to the fact that from Hume onwards to contemporary care ethicists, there is a fundamental piece missing
- And that is the underlying motivation of **EMPATHY**
- **Which itself is a moral concept**
- **Should this be taken into Counselling Ethics?**

Slote -

- Action is morally permissible, and even good, if it exhibits caring on the part of its agents.
- Distinguishes between a caring attitude, on the one hand, and an attitude of indifference or hostility to others, on the other.
- The latter when displayed to relevant others counts as ethically wrong.

Empathy

- Genuine acts of caring involve an emotional/motivational sensitivity to particular other people.
- One is concerned about the situation a given person is in, and one's focus is on the individual herself, rather than on any abstract or general moral principles that someone might want to consult in order to determine how to act towards that individual.

Controversial – within TEC

- The concern is for that person with the **immediate need** and how one's actions may affect the welfare of the person one is, **at the moment**, concerned about, and the welfare of *other* people may be very much a background issue.

Partiality vs Impartiality

- Do I stand back or do I involve myself?

Nel Noddings -Partiality

- Utilitarianism or consequentialism may have concern for the individual, but TEC are openly transparent about the immediacy of care through partiality of that person with whom a person has an immediate relationship

Slote + Held

- Argue that there is no reason why care should be limited to immediate proximity.
- Caring attitudes towards groups of people are demonstrable.
- What one can do for people not know personally is less than what one can do for someone who one has an immediate relationship with.



What about a Global Ethics?

Ethical Dilemmas and Moral Dilemmas

- Case Examples (Provided in Class)
- Using the Ethical Decision Making process by BACP