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## Matters of Care

*Speculative Ethics in More than Human Worlds*

María Puig de la Bellacasa

Publication Year: 2017

To care can feel good, or it can feel bad. It can do good, it can oppress. But what is care? A moral obligation? A burden? A joy? Is it only human? In *Matters of Care*, María Puig de la Bellacasa presents a powerful challenge to conventional notions of care, exploring its significance as an ethical and political obligation for thinking in the more than human worlds of technoscience and naturecultures.

Matters of Care contests the view that care is something only humans do, and argues for extending to non-humans the consideration of agencies and communities that make the living web of care by considering how care circulates in the n . . . [show more](#)

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#### Introduction: The Disruptive Thought of Care

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Care, caring, carer. Burdened words, contested words. And yet so common in everyday life, as if care was evident, beyond particular expertise or knowledge. Most of us need care, feel care, are cared for, or encounter care, in one way or another. Care is omnipresent, even through the effects of its absence. ...

#### Part I: Knowledge Politics

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##### one. Assembling Neglected "Things"

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This beautiful planet is sore, and bearable living conditions continue to be inaccessible to the many. The joint fortune that immeasurable forms of life share with human technoscience is no longer news. Developing more scientific research and technological solutions continues to be the dominant response to problems globally and locally—whether these concern climate change, economic recessions, ...

##### two. Thinking with Care

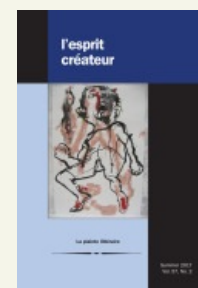
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The epigraphs above disclose that this chapter unfolds as an intimate reading of Donna Haraway's relational ontology, where "beings do not pre-exist their relatings," as a way of exploring how styles of thinking and writing technologies can contribute to relations of care in moving worlds. ...

### — three. Touching Visions

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pp. 95-122

The affective, ethical, and practical engagements of caring invoke involved embodied, embedded relations in closeness with concrete conditions. And yet I am exploring care for a speculative ethics. Embracing the tension between the concrete and the speculative, this chapter engages with paths to the reembodyment of thinking and knowing ...

## Part II: Speculative Ethics in Antiecollogical Times

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### — four. Alterbiopolitics

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In May 2006, I traveled to the hills that overlook Bodega Bay, an hour and a half north of San Francisco, to participate in two weeks of intensive training in permaculture technologies. The course was organized by the U.S.-based Earth Activist Training (EAT) collective, and the lead teachers were Eric Ohlsen, a permaculture expert practitioner, ...

### — five. Soil Times: The Pace of Ecological Care

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pp. 169-216

Human-soil relations are a captivating terrain to engage with the intricate entanglements of material necessities, affective intensities, and ethico-political troubles of caring obligations in the more than human worlds marked by technoscience. Increasingly since the first agricultural revolutions, the predominant drive underlying human-soil relations ...

### — Coda

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Across this book I have come back, as a reassuring refrain, to Tronto's generic definition of care. I have also placed it within discussions that engage with more than human worlds and agencies. Tronto stated that care includes "everything that *we* do to maintain, continue, and repair '*our world*'"—our bodies, *our selves*, and our environment— ...

### — Acknowledgments

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I am grateful to Florence Degavre, Chloe Deligne, and Nathalie Trussart for encouraging me to think further the meanings of care in knowledge construction and in science as the theme timidly emerged at the end of my doctoral research. Continuing on this path wouldn't have been possible without a European Union Marie Curie Fellowship to undertake postdoctoral research at the University of California, Santa Cruz ...

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