



SEMINAR SERIES

Care and Democracy

FALL 2026

AUP | Center for Critical
Democracy Studies

Care and Democracy

Seminar Series 2026

Twenty years of *Le Souci des autres*

In 2006, the publication of *Le Souci des autres. Éthique et politique du care* (collection *Raisons pratiques*, Éditions de l'EHESS) marked a decisive moment in contemporary French thought. Care emerged from this intellectual constellation as far more than a new vocabulary for vulnerability or attention to others.

Over the following twenty years, it became a powerful way of rethinking democracy from the realities of

dependency and interdependence, making visible neglected forms of experience, questioning inherited conceptions of autonomy, and bringing ordinary life into the heart of moral and political philosophy.

To mark the anniversary we propose three encounters that form a single intellectual sequence: an anniversary that looks forward as much as it looks back.

Center for Critical Democracy Studies (American University of Paris) and ISJPS (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

The Care and Democracy Seminar is jointly organized by the Center for Critical Democracy Studies and the ISJPS, bringing together two major research environments around a shared inquiry into care, democracy and contemporary political thought.

This partnership gives the series its distinctive Franco-American, interdisciplinary character and creates a lasting space for intellectual exchange between the two institutions.

Location: Room Q609
Center for Critical Democracy Studies
American University of Paris
6 rue du Colonel Combes, 75007 Paris

Format: Hybrid - in person and live on Zoom, including audience Q&A

Language: English and French



Please scan the QR code to confirm your attendance

Twenty Years of Care Ethics:

Legacies, Controversies and Democratic Horizons

October 8th, 2026 | 5:30 - 8:00pm

Twenty years after *Le Souci des autres*, this opening symposium brings together several generations and traditions of care scholarship for a collective inquiry into what has happened to care as it travelled through philosophy, sociology, feminist theory, psychology and democratic thought.

The anniversary offers an occasion for intellectual stocktaking: What conceptual transformations have taken place over these twenty years? What did the French development of care make visible that established moral and political vocabularies had left at their margins? How has the encounter between care and democracy displaced our understanding of autonomy, vulnerability, institutions and political voice? And which tensions, blind spots and unfinished questions now define the field?

In person:

Sandra Laugier
Université Paris 1
Panthéon-Sorbonne

Zona Zarić
American University of Paris

Patricia Paperman
Université Paris 8

Pascale Molinier
Université Sorbonne
Paris Nord

Nathalie Zaccai-Reyners
Université libre de Bruxelles

Marie Garrau
Université Paris 1
Panthéon-Sorbonne

Online:

Carol Gilligan
New York University

Joan Tronto
University of Minnesota



Carol Gilligan

November 5th, 2026 | 5:30 - 8:00pm

What does it mean to hear a voice politically? What forms of relationship sustain or silence it? And what might democracy look like when care, responsiveness and the capacity to listen are understood as conditions of democratic life?

For this special session of the Care and Democracy Seminar, Carol Gilligan returns to these questions and to the contemporary possibilities of care at a moment of profound democratic uncertainty.



Care and Masculinities

December 3rd, 2026 | 5:30 - 8:00pm

This symposium brings feminist philosophy, political theory, psychology and masculinity studies into conversation to ask how masculinities might be rethought from the standpoint of care.

What forms of masculinity are sustained by the disavowal of dependency? What happens when vulnerability is acknowledged rather than displaced? Can practices of care transform masculine subjectivities as well as the institutions and social relations through which masculinity is produced?

Juliet Williams
University of California

Olivia Custer
American University of Paris

Michael Ferguson
University of Colorado

Alice Cray
New School for Social Research

Katharine Wallerstein
Wallerstein Institute
for World Futures



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