



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

DEPARTMENT
OF PHILOSOPHY

**SeRiC
FILO**

Seminari delle
Ricerche in Corso

SeRiC - Seminari delle Ricerche in Corso 2024/2025

THE ROLE OF EMOTIONS IN THE FEMINIST ETHICS OF CARE

**14/05/2025, 11:30-13:30
Aula Mondolo, Zamboni 38**

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In the second half of the 20th century, critiques of modern rationalist moral theories (e.g., Utilitarianism and Kantianism) gave rise to the revival of virtue ethics and moral sentimentalism, challenging the exclusion of emotions from moral reasoning. During this period, another strong objection to the reason-emotion divide in moral philosophy came from the feminist ethics of care, which emphasized the key role of empathy, sympathy, and emotions in moral motivation and moral judgments. However, care ethics faces criticism for its reliance on emotions, since emotions are often considered to be subjective, variable, and prone to manipulation. Critics argue that giving a prominent role to emotions may compromise impartiality, leading to favoritism or even harm, as emotions like love can lead to both care and abuse. These debates are further complicated by disagreements about the nature of care, emotion, and their roles in moral judgment. In this paper, I aim to briefly examine key care-based approaches from the past 40 years, explore the complexities of emotions in care ethics, and discuss their normative significance.

The event can be attended remotely by following the link or scanning the **QR code -->**



■ The seminar is part of the doctoral teaching offerings for the PhD program in Philosophy, Science, Cognition, and Semiotics at the Department of Philosophy, University of Bologna, for the academic year 2024/2025.

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