

Anth 4225/5708: Anthropology of Care

Instructor	Marie-Eve Carrier-Moisan
Term	Winter 2027
Course Delivery	In-person
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is care? How is it understood and practiced? What are the stakes, why care matters? In recent years, care has become a significant topic in popular and scholarly discussions, including by anthropologists who are increasingly taking up care in their work as a polysemic category that allows to think through “everyday practices, engagements with biomedicine, biopolitics, affective states, forms of moral experience and obligation, structures of exploitation, and the relationships between these various things” (Bush 2015: 279). Against universalist understanding of an ethic of care, anthropologists are attuned to the circulation of care, the moral values ascribed to it, and the logics, relations and structures that underpin it, focusing on care as a relational and contextual practice.

In this seminar, we will examine recent anthropological approaches to the study of care, drawing on both ethnographic and theoretical works. We will debate the meaning and definitions of care, explore care in local practices, and engage with how care is entangled within the political economy as well as mediated through sociocultural and geopolitical relations and structures. We will discuss, among other topics, popular discourses and artistic representation of care, carework, care as a form of governance/regulation/policy intervention/violence, technologies of care, the commodification of care, care as a moral economy, care as resistance, etc. We will draw on feminist theories of carework and social reproduction, science and technologies studies, critical disability studies, and medical anthropology, among other bodies of scholarly literatures.

EVALUATION

TBA

TEXT

TBA