

# The CARE Lab presents

Maurice Hamington in a free public lecture,  
Room G16 Martin Harris Centre, The University of Manchester,  
5pm-6pm 26 January 26, 2023.

## Caring as an Ethical Process and Moral Progress

Care is what has sustained humanity and allowed it to flourish. Care is also our greatest hope for the future. Unfortunately, terrible abuse and atrocities have also been committed in the name of "care," such as paternalistic violence and colonialism. Therefore, it is crucial to differentiate poor care from good care. Driven by feminist scholarship, Western theorists only began to recognize and value care recently. After only a few decades, "care ethics" has become a significant lens of moral analysis across various disciplines. Care is different than other moral approaches in that context, emotions, and responsiveness are highly prized in a manner that suggests a way of being rather than a system for solving life's dilemmas. This presentation addresses good care as an ethical process consisting of humble inquiry, inclusive connection, and responsive action. Humans are embodied beings that exist in time and space. Accordingly, good care results from reflection on our activities and habits of mind and body. Thus care is a "process morality." If committed to care, humans can strive not for perfection but rather to improve care. This process approach, combined with the imaginative dimension of empathetic connection, makes care the foundation for moral progress. The open-endedness (disponibility) of good care helps us envision what better care might be. The world needs more care. We have the capacity to make progress toward a more caring society.



Maurice Hamington is Professor of Philosophy, and Affiliate Faculty in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Portland State University. He is a care ethicist interested in the theory and application of care. He has authored or edited over a dozen books on care regarding diverse topics, including politics, business, hospitality, poetry, and precarity. His latest publication, *Care Ethics, Religion, and Spiritual Traditions*, edited with Inge van Nistelrooij and Maureen Sander-Staudt (Peeters 2022), is an open-access book. [mhamington.com](http://mhamington.com)