



Seminar Series:
Care practices: towards a recasting of ethics

**Empirically grounded ethics of care:
*a methodological perspective***

8TH LECTURE

Prof. dr Andries Baart
2014, Dec. 3th

Presentie 



Introduction

1. This 8th lecture: turn to empirical research into EoC
2. EoC needs such research
3. Focus on care ethical professional carers
4. Content:
 1. Our position in the fact-value debate
 2. Empirical turn to care and the ordinary life: forms, results and organization
 3. From empirical inquiries to grounded theory of the EoC

2



I. The fact-value discussion and our stance



© Wouter Stips, *The jump* (2003)



I Overcoming fact and value gap

There are serious problems when linking empirical facts to ethical reasoning.

5



The Fact-Value Gap



David Hume 1711-1776,

In every system of morality, which I have hitherto met with, I have always remark'd, that the author proceeds for some time in the ordinary way of reasoning; when all of a sudden I am surpriz'd to find, that instead of the usual copulations of propositions, *is* and *is not*, I meet with no proposition that is not connected with an *ought* or an *ought not*. This change is imperceptible; but is however, of the last consequence.

David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature* (Book III Part I Section I 'Moral Distinctions Not derived from Reason')

There is a fundamental gap between
is and ought
the descriptive and the prescriptive
fact and value
motive and reason

6



I Overcoming fact and value gap

Accepted positions of empirical data in ethical decision making:

- Knowledge of the context
- Knowledge of (probable) consequences
- Knowledge of (existing) values and opinions
- Knowledge of motives and reasons
- Behavioral predictions.

7



I Overcoming fact and value gap

Accepted positions of empirical data in ethical decision making:

- Knowledge of the context
- Knowledge of (probable) consequences
- Knowledge of (existing) values and opinions
- Knowledge of motives and reasons
- Behavioral predictions, etc.

→ Helpful to ethicists but still the humble *ancilla* function of the empirical sciences



Ancilla Domini / Maid of the Lord



I Overcoming fact and value gap

Table 1. Heuristic overview of different ways of using empirical data within ethics

APPROACHES	I Fundamental distinction descriptive- prescriptive sciences	II Moral authority in	III Central goal(s)	IV Type of normativity	V Use of empirical data	VI Method	VII Interaction empirical data and moral theory	VIII Cooperation with descriptive sciences
PREScriptive APPLIED ETHICISTS	Yes	Moral theory	Evaluate social practice	External	A) Conditional (consequentialism); B) As object of study (in order to judge);	Deductive (top-down, theory-based) [THEORY → DATA]	One way (top-down)	Symbiotic
THEORISTS	Yes	Moral theory	Improve moral theory	External	As a means to refine theory	Take cognisance of empirical results [THEORY → DATA → THEORY]	One way	Symbiotic
CRITICAL APPLIED ETHICISTS	Yes	Both moral theory and social practice	Evaluate social practice, Improve moral theory	External and internal	A) As object of study; B) As a means to improve moral theory (e.g. validity check of empirical background assumptions)	Deductive and inductive (mutually confront empirical data with moral theory) [THEORY ↔ DATA]	Weak interaction	Symbiotic, integrative (conceptual importation)
INTEGRATED EMPIRICAL ETHICS	No	Experience within social practice (theory is seen as a practice)	Interpretation, Evaluation, Methodology development	Research process, material context and meta-normativity	As subject of study	Integrative (continuity of method between ethics and social science) [THEORY ≈ DATA]	Strong interaction	Integrative (mutual constitutive)
PARTICULARISTS	No	Social practice	Interpretation, Explanation	Internal	As subject of study	Inductive and case-based reasoning [ONLY DATA]	No interaction	Integrative (theoretical unity)

BIERT MOLEWINK ET AL.



I Overcoming fact and value gap

Table 1. Heuristic overview of different ways of using empirical data within ethics

APPROACHES	I Fundamental distinction descriptive- prescriptive sciences	II Moral authority in	III Central goal(s)	IV Type of normativity	V Use of empirical data	VI Method	VII Interaction empirical data and moral theory	VIII Cooperation with descriptive sciences
PREScriptive APPLIED ETHICISTS	Yes	Moral theory	Evaluate social practice	External	A) Conditional (consequentialism); B) As object of study (in order to judge);	Deductive (top-down, theory-based) [THEORY → DATA]	One way (top-down)	Symbiotic
THEORISTS	Yes	Moral theory	Improve moral theory	External	As a means to refine theory	Take cognisance of empirical results [THEORY → DATA → THEORY]	One way	Symbiotic
CRITICAL APPLIED ETHICISTS	Yes	Both moral theory and social practice	Evaluate social practice, Improve moral theory	External and internal	A) As object of study; B) As a means to improve moral theory (e.g. validity check of empirical background assumptions)	Deductive and inductive (mutually confront empirical data with moral theory) [THEORY ↔ DATA]	Weak interaction	Symbiotic, integrative (conceptual importation)
INTEGRATED EMPIRICAL ETHICS	No	Experience within social practice (theory is seen as a practice)	Interpretation, Evaluation, Methodology development	Research process, material context and meta-normativity	As subject of study	Integrative (continuity of method between ethics and social science) [THEORY ≈ DATA]	Strong interaction	Integrative (mutual constitutive)
PARTICULARISTS	No	Social practice	Interpretation, Explanation	Internal	As subject of study	Inductive and case-based reasoning [ONLY DATA]	No interaction	Integrative (theoretical unity)

BIERT MOLEWINK ET AL.



I Overcoming fact and value gap

Our position:

- 1) Rejection of the radical fact-value distinction
- 2) Empirically grounded EoC
- 3) Related to integrated empirical ethics
- 4) Result of inductive qualitative research in continuous exchange with theoretical frames

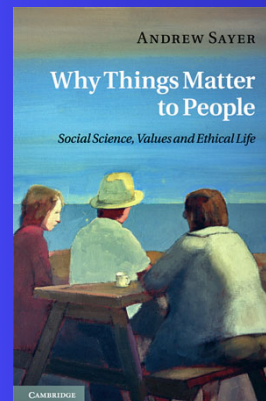
11



I Overcoming fact and value gap

What it learns us:

- 1) The emergence of goods (example: the relation as a good per se)
- 2) Lived meaning of facts (Sayer)

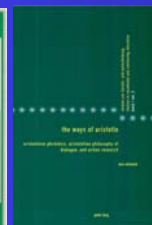
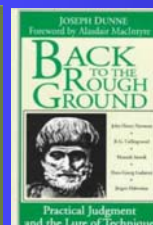
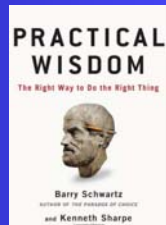




I Overcoming fact and value gap

What it learns us:

- 1) The emergence of goods +example: the relation as a good per se
- 2) Lived meaning of facts (Sayer)
- 3) Continuous adequate handling of morals in practices and by practitioners (phronesis)



13



I Overcoming fact and value gap

This bridges in a certain way the fact-value gap

- 1) Generating critical insights
- 2) Keep moral reasoning empirically grounded
- 3) Away from moral dilemmas to 'what makes care good care?'
- 4) More sources of relevant knowledge into the moral debate
- 5) The broadening of moral subject
- 6) Facts interpreted in an politically ethical reasoning

14



I Overcoming fact and value gap

Why is this care ethical?

- ✓ Relational reasoning
- ✓ Object: good care
- ✓ The many sources of moral deliberation
- ✓ Priority to the 1st person's perspective
- ✓ Pragmatic handling of the care – justice dichotomy

15



II. Intermezzo: a quick picture of the kind of research we do



II Intermezzo: picture of our research

A quick picture of the kind of research we do

1. Methodological characteristics
2. Examples: themes and objects
3. Immediate benefits / example of correction
4. Researcher and theorist in one person



III. The shift in attention by the empirical turn



III Shift in attention by the empirical turn

- A. Images of care beyond naivety
 - a. Beyond the beauty of (the non-existing) purity
 - b. Beyond the attractiveness of (non-existing) simplicity
 - c. Beyond theory-driven irrelevance
 - d. Beyond the artificial fixation of care
 - e. Beyond the dream of healing and recovery



III Shift in attention by the empirical turn

B. Issues that matter

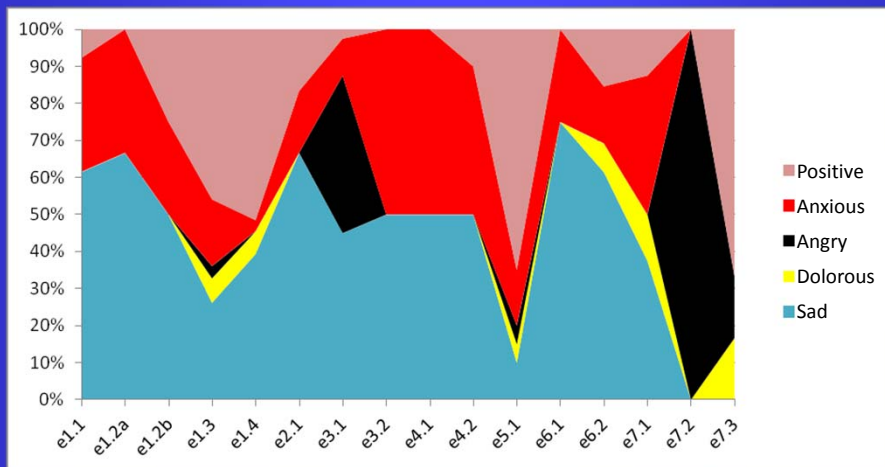
- a. On the level of concepts → Beyond the luxury of generalities.

1st illustration: not phased emotions but layered emotions

21



III Shift in attention by the empirical turn



22



© Wouter Stips, Carry me (2006)



III Shift in attention by the empirical turn

B. Issues that matter

a. On the level of concepts → Beyond the luxury of generalities.

1st illustration: not phased emotions but layered emotions

2nd illustration: key concept of relations is not just dependency but there are at least 6 more entries



Introductie

Central question	Key concept	Relation to care	In short	Relations as...
Origin of help when I am in need?	(Inter)-dependency	Ontological, Sociological fact	Care thanks to relations	Source of practical help
Who may refuse care to another?	Nearness	Ethical, Inquiry into obligations	Care regardless a (personal) relation	Sources of ethical commitment
What is care as an experience?	Being secured	Psychological, Experiential, the lived meaning of care	Care as (being in) relation	Sources of human beneficence
How do we know what the (individual) other needs, desires, can tolerate etc. ?	Understanding	Epistemological programming matrix	Care out of the relation	Sources of regulative knowledge
How to do justice to the uniqueness of the care receiver as a social human being?	Context	Historical, Situatedness of the care receiver	Care within (the network of) relations	Sources of to be respected restrictions
How caring contributes to good society	Sociability	Political-ethical, The social order of caring	Care into (good) relations	Source of social cohesion
May the care receiver present him/herself as subject:	Subjectivity	Spacial and temporal, A stage to make yourself known	Care beyond the relation	Source of becoming someone



Introductie

Central question	Key concept	Relation to care	In short	Relations as...
Origin of help when I am in need?	(Inter)-dependency	Ontological, Sociological fact	Care thanks to relations	Source of practical help
Who may refuse care to another?	Nearness	Ethical, Inquiry into obligations	Care regardless a (personal) relation	Sources of ethical commitment
What is care as an experience?	Being secured	Psychological, Experiential, the lived meaning of care	Care as (being in) relation	Sources of human beneficence
How do we know what the (individual) other needs, desires, can tolerate etc. ?	Understanding	Epistemological programming matrix	Care out of the relation	Sources of regulative knowledge
How to do justice to the uniqueness of the care receiver as a social human being?	Context	Historical, Situatedness of the care receiver	Care within (the network of) relations	Sources of to be respected restrictions
How caring contributes to good society	Sociability	Political-ethical, The social order of caring	Care into (good) relations	Source of social cohesion
May the care receiver present him/herself as subject:	Subjectivity	Spacial and temporal, A stage to make yourself known	Care beyond the relation	Source of becoming someone



© Wouter Stips, "I heard it, you called me" (2004)



III Shift in attention by the empirical turn

B. Issues that matter

b. On the level of burning issues

- Professionalism and the formation of the care ethical professional
- How to induce care ethical organizational transitions?
- More than neediness
- The dominant care discourses

➔ Conclusions



III Shift in attention by the empirical turn

- B. Issues that matter
- c. Emphasis on interdisciplinary
 - The development of crucial concepts
 - The typical care ethical research methodology; our way of doing empirical qualitative research (next sheets)

29



Methodological movement between critical conceptual, hermeneutic, phenomenological and qualitative empirical research

Reflection zone:
Attentive & Talk back

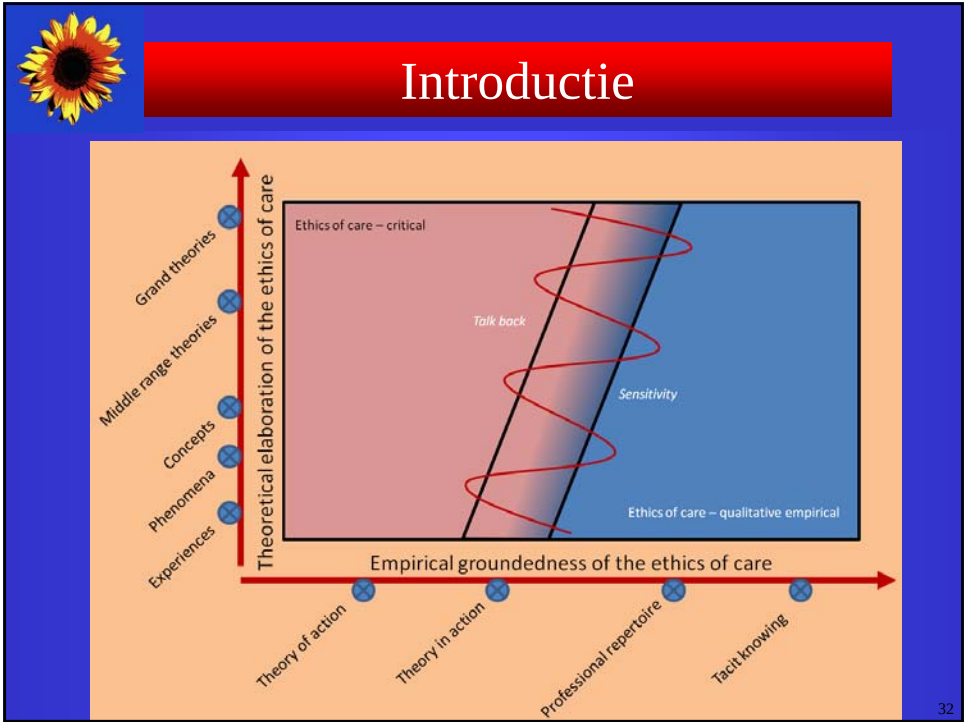
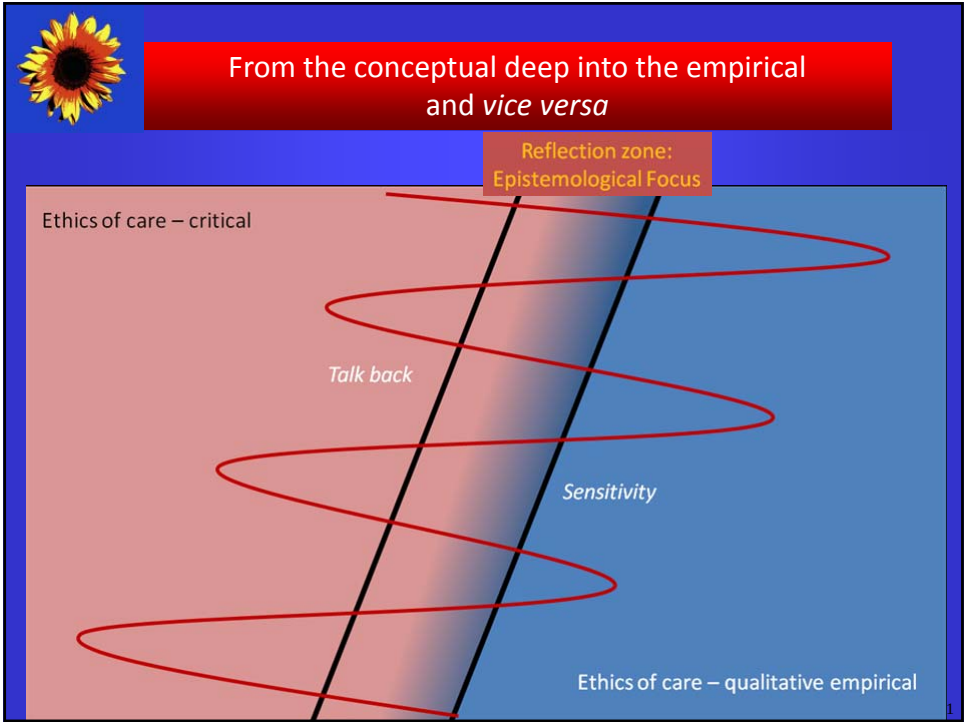
Ethics of care – critical

Talk back

Sensitivity

Ethics of care – qualitative empirical

30





III Shift in attention by the empirical turn

B. Issues that matter

c. Emphasis on interdisciplinary

- The development of crucial concepts
- The typical care ethical research methodology; our way of doing empirical qualitative research (sheets)
- The trajectory from multi, over inter- to intradisciplinary in the EoC

33



IV. The yield of the empirical turn



© Wouter Stips, *We dreamed a world* (2006)



IV The yield of the empirical turn

Summary until now:

- Position of the empirically grounded EoC
- Characteristic: attentive to emergent goods, lived meaning and lived morals in such a way that a broad ethical reasoning about good care is possible.
- Impression of our empirical research, methodological and substantial



IV The yield of the empirical turn

Summary until now:

- I explored the empirical turn and the shift of attention it has caused in three chapters:
 - o One loses his / her innocence and arrogance
 - o Concepts get alive, become specified and burning issues – so dominant in the everyday practice of care – come forward
 - o The question how to develop EoC as an interdisciplinary endeavor becomes actual

37



IV The yield of the empirical turn

Now the last steps: the results of the empirical turn (as far as not yet mentioned):

1. Generating and setting the agenda of the EoC
2. Generating critical insights:
 - a. What are critical insights?
 - b. The top 5 (6)

38



IV The yield of the empirical turn

Now the last steps: the results of the empirical turn (*continued*):

3. Generating a grounded theory of the EoC
 - a. Putting together our empirical findings
 - b. In dialogue with philosophy
 - c. Just as I have done with the theory of presence (from 1992- until today) – long term endeavor
4. Back to the beginning of this lecture, back to the theory – including the empirical turn (since 2007 with Frans Vosman).

39

