

SINTA and ICS | Lecture & Workshops

# Ethics, Politics, and Epistemology of Care

1–3 December 2025 | online

Prof. Dr. Vrinda Dalmiya



# Ethics, Politics, and Epistemology of Care

**with Prof. Dr. Vrinda Dalmiya**

professor in the Philosophy Department at the University of Hawai'i,  
Mānoa

## **When?**

**Mon, 1 December 25**

**19.15–20.45 CEST**

**via Zoom**

## **Public Lecture**

This lecture traces how feminist care ethics—rooted in the recognition of shared bodily fragility—must be expanded to include what can be called epistemic vulnerability: the openness to being cognitively undone. Care, understood as an in-time embodied practice, unfolds under conditions of uncertainty, producing an 'emergent normativity'—an 'ought' that is shaped through ethical encounter and cannot be prescribed in advance. This challenges conventional belief-desire models of action, inviting alternative accounts of the rationality of acts of care. A theory of knowing built on such caring practice, decenters the quest for certainty and embraces not-knowing in various ways. Could such epistemological shifts loop back to re-theorize fundamental care-concepts beyond their Eurocentric articulations? How might an epistemology reimagined in this way, open up new horizons for thinking, making, and being together in more-than-human worlds?

## Workshops

### Workshop Session 1

Tue, 2 December 25

18.00–21.00 CEST

via Zoom

### Workshop Session 2

Wed, 3 December 25

18.00–21.00 CEST

via Zoom

### ECTS

1.5 ECTS

### Required Reading

We will send you the texts (46 pages in total) by email for preparation once you have registered.

The workshops explore how different forms of vulnerability—corporeal, epistemic, and moral—can open pathways out of entrenched cycles of violence, and whether sites of intimacy can offer clues for more just and sustainable forms of cohabitation. Participants will engage with selected writings by Dalmiya that reinterpret episodes from the classical epic Mahābhārata through a contemporary feminist lens, considering how protagonists who fail can serve as ‘exemplars’ for liberatory political and ethical aims. Discussions will foreground questions around the political significance of embodiment, the role of affective states such as grief in constituting relational selfhood, and the “domestic” as a site of empowerment. We will also examine the methodological stakes of “feminist comparative philosophy” (also called fusion, cross-cultural, or global philosophy), asking how it might confront what Charles Mills terms “Whitopia” and address the colonality of knowledge in the face of epistemic injustices articulated by Miranda Fricker and Kristie Dotson. Finally, we will go on to consider whether art-making, attention to the body, and practices of “doing” could contribute to resistance within this framework. (A brief introduction to the Mahābhārata will be provided on both days for context.)

## Registration for the lecture and workshops

Please register via KSL or email by November 17.

[hannah.ambuehl@unibe.ch](mailto:hannah.ambuehl@unibe.ch)

If you **only want to participate in the public**

**lecture**, please register by email so we can send you the Zoom link.



**Vrinda Dalmiya** is a professor in the Philosophy Department at the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa. She has been a Fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla in India. Her research interests are in analytic feminist theory with a focus on care ethics, feminist epistemology, environment and gender, and comparative philosophy. She is the author of several articles in these areas, the author of the monograph, *Caring to Know: Comparative Care Ethics, Feminist Epistemology, and the Mahābhārata* (2016), and co-editor of *Exploring Agency in the Mahābhārata: Ethical and Political Dimensions of Dharma* (2018).



**SINTA**

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Graduate School  
of the Arts and  
Humanities



**ICS**

Interdisciplinary  
Cultural Studies

**H K B**

Hochschule der Künste Bern  
Haute école des arts de Berne  
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