

# HUMBOLDT PHILOSOPHY FORUM

## In Collaboration with the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

### Abstract for "Revolutionary Care and Inclusive Excellence" by Maurice Hamington

Free Keynote in The Great Hall on Wednesday, March 6 from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Activist James Boggs and activist philosopher Grace Lee Boggs poignantly connect evolution and revolution. They viewed revolution as tied to an evolution of humanity, a vision that includes “new man/woman” and “new concepts of the relations between people.” Care can be just such a revolution.

Our cosmopolitan society seeks new answers to social questions in ways that traditional neoliberal and analytic approaches to policy, economics, and ethics seem ill-equipped to respond to. This presentation suggests that care ethics—a relational approach to morality and a way of being in the world—is best equipped to draw upon the human condition as interdependent embodied beings in guiding our values and practices. Furthermore, our social challenges require a care revolution. This revolution may have already started, and everyone can participate.

Care theory is more than a systematic approach to adjudicating moral dilemmas. Good care is marked by humble inquiry, inclusive connection, and responsive action at its deepest and richest expression. No matter one’s identity, everyone needs care. Thus, a care movement has the potential to galvanize people around new norms of interpersonal relationships that include democratic participation and empathy. We witnessed imperfect examples of such revolutions during the Progressive Era and the Peace and Love movements of the 1960s.

This presentation describes care theory and how we can participate in a process revolution—a change of heart, mind, and politics—that begins with our personal choices, commitments, and disposition. I then address what a care revolution means for institutions like universities, how a care ethos impacts a college culture, and how we frame the role of higher education. In particular, the work of diversity, equity, and inclusion is brought from margin to center in the operation of a caring university.

Maurice Hamington is Professor of Philosophy and Affiliate Faculty of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Portland State University. He writes about the theory and application of feminist care ethics. He is the author of *Revolutionary Care: Commitment and Ethos* (2024), *Care Ethics and Poetry* (2019), written with Ce Rosenow, *The Social Philosophy of Jane Addams* (2009), *Embodied Care* (2004), and *Hail Mary? The Struggle for Ultimate Womanhood in Catholicism* (1995). Hamington edited *Feminism and Hospitality: Gender in the Host/Guest Relationship* (2010) and has co-edited *The Oxford Handbook of Jane Addams* (2023), *Care Ethics, Religion, and Spiritual Traditions* (2022), *Care Ethics in the Age of Precarity* (2021), *Care Ethics and Political Theory*, (2015), *Applying Care Ethics to Business* (2011), and *Socializing Care* (2006). Hamington holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Oregon and, a Ph.D. in Religion and Social Ethics, and an M.B.A. from the University of Southern California. He is currently working as a consultant for two major grants in the U.K. on care ethics and aesthetics. He is a Fulbright Specialist who will spend November of this year in Kyoto working with Japanese feminist care ethicists. For more information on his scholarly activities, see [mhamington.com](http://mhamington.com)