

'Care for others has emerged today as a central preoccupation. The ethics of care has become a tool for analysing societies – their vulnerabilities and blindness. Estelle Ferrarese's major book makes a powerful and revealing connection between ethics of care, radical feminism and critical theory. It deeply renews critical theory and develops feminist thought in new, unseen directions, inventing new meanings for the concept of care.'

Sandra Laugier, Professor of Philosophy, Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne

A SYSTEMATIC REFLECTION ON THE SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF CARING FOR OTHERS

Estelle Ferrarese argues for an understanding of morality that is materialist and political. Taking the Frankfurt School philosopher Theodor W. Adorno as a point of departure, she questions his social philosophy by submitting it to ideas deriving from theories of care. She thinks through the mechanisms of the social fragility of caring for others, the moral gestures it enjoins, as well as its political stakes.

Ferrarese shows that the capitalist form of life, strained by a generalised indifference, produces a compartmentalised attention to others, one limited to very particular tasks and domains and attributed to women.

Offering a systematic study of the idea of 'coldness' in Adorno's philosophy, she stages a dialogue between Adornian Critical Theory and the ethics of care. In doing so, Ferrarese approaches old questions in a new light in a bid to give dignity to the singular, to make its specific claims and its moral pertinence heard.

Estelle Ferrarese is Professor of Moral and Political Philosophy at Picardie-Jules-Verne University, France.

Steven Corcoran has translated numerous works by French and German philosophers, including Jacques Rancière and Alain Badiou, and is the editor of *The Badiou Dictionary*, published by Edinburgh University Press.

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Estelle Ferrarese

THE FRAGILITY OF
CONCERN FOR OTHERS

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THE FRAGILITY OF CONCERN FOR OTHERS

ADORNO AND THE ETHICS OF CARE

Estelle Ferrarese

Translated by Steven Corcoran