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*A powerful defence of the value of care
as an alternative to capitalism*

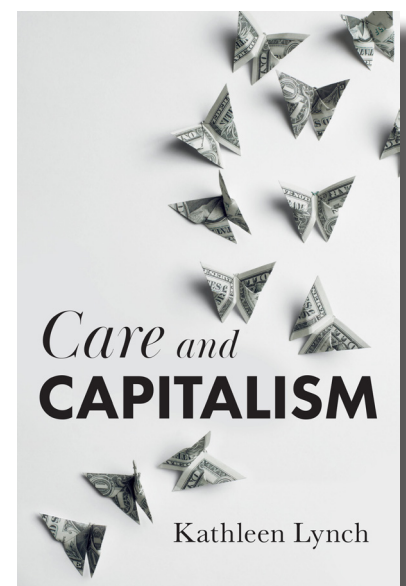
Care and Capitalism

Kathleen Lynch

The logics and ethics of neoliberal capitalism dominate public discourses and politics in the early twenty-first century. They morally endorse and institutionalize forms of competitive self-interest that jettison social justice values, and are deeply antithetical to love, care and solidarity.

But capitalism is neither invincible nor inevitable. While people are self-interested, they are not purely self-interested: they are bound affectively and morally to others, even to unknown others. The cares, loves and solidarity relationships within which people are engaged give them direction and purpose in their daily lives. They constitute cultural residuals of hope that stand ready to move humanity beyond a narrow capitalism-centric set of values.

In this instructive and inspiring book, Kathleen Lynch sets out to reclaim the language of love, care and solidarity both intellectually and politically and to place it at the heart of contemporary discourse. Her goal is to help unseat capital at the gravitational centre of meaning making and value, thereby helping to create care, love and solidarity-led logics and ethical priorities for politics.



"Care and Capitalism is one of the most significant books I have read in years. Lynch challenges many of the key assumptions underpinning neoliberalism and the norms that guide it. At the same time, she provides powerful and insightful alternatives."

Michael W. Apple, Beijing Normal University and University of Wisconsin–Madison

"Kathleen Lynch brings her well-known understanding of care as affective relations to new realms. She deepens thinking about care's relation to violence and extending care to non-human animals. Most importantly, she explains why capitalism is so hostile to care at all levels."

Joan C. Tronto, University of Minnesota

"This beautifully written indictment of neoliberal capitalism articulates a new definition of justice that goes beyond unfair appropriation to call out failures to reward necessary contributions to the public good. Impressive scholarship and passionate intensity make this book a stellar addition to the emerging discourse of care."

Nancy Folbre, University of Massachusetts Amherst

About the Author

Kathleen Lynch is Professor Emerita of Equality Studies at University College Dublin. She was awarded the Irish Research Council President's Award for her research on equality and social justice in December 2019 and appointed as a member of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission in 2020.

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