

**PRÉCIS OF “THE ETHICS OF CARE AND EMPATHY”  
(ROUTLEDGE, 2007)**

**Michael Slote**

Many care ethicists have held that their view represents a much needed supplement to traditional ethical thinking, but can't provide a total and systematic account of individual and political morality all on its own. But in *The Ethics of Care and Empathy*, Michael Slote argues that care ethics needs to offer such a larger picture because it is in deep ways inconsistent with traditional and, especially, with rationalist/liberal views about ethics. He argues that care ethics needs to make more use of the recent psychological literature on empathy and moral development and that it can use that literature in developing and justifying a large-scale picture of normative morality. The notion of empathy helps care ethics work out a more adequate account of moral education than has previously been available to it, but it also allows care ethics to explain such traditional rationalist notions as respect, autonomy, justice, and deontological obligation in its own distinctive and appealing terms.