



# Professor Darlei Dall'Agnol

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## RESPECTFUL CARE IN BIOETHICS AND NEUROETHICS

### A three-part lecture series, Fall 2017

#### **November 10: Practical Cognitivism and the Epistemic Foundations of Bioethics**

The predominant bioethical theory, principlism, leads either to irresolvable dilemmas and to inaction in scientific research and clinical practices or to arbitrary decisions. To solve these problems, I will argue that we must embrace practical cognitivism: a new moral epistemology based on the idea that moral knowledge is a subspecies of knowing-how (e.g., knowing-how to care respectfully).

#### **November 17: Care Ethics vs. Universal Respect? Towards Respectful Care**

A normative ethical approach must be capable of overcoming present day theoretical divergences. I will review the main contributions of the so-called 'care ethics' as well as theories based on the Kantian idea of respect for persons to show that care and respect can be integrated to provide guidance for many bioethical challenges. In order to achieve that, I will present a conceptual analysis of "respectful care".

#### **December 1: Respectful Care in Neurobioethics**

Does neuroethics pose new moral challenges for an ethics dealing with scientific experiments involving human beings? I will discuss the problem of whether nonconventional forms of cognitive enhancement, namely pharmacological, genetic etc. are morally permissible. Recalling the problems of principlism, I will argue that respectful care can provide a sound moral framework to deal with neurobioethical problems.

**All presentations in South Kedzie 105, Fridays, 3:00 p.m.**

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**Darlei Dall'Agnol** is the author of *Care and Respect in Bioethics*; *Ethics: the History and Philosophy of Morality*; *Ethics and Language: an Introduction to Wittgenstein's Tractatus*; *Bioethics*; and *Intrinsic Value: Metaethics, Normative Ethics, and Practical Ethics in G.E. Moore*, and editor of numerous other books. Besides his current position as a Fulbright Scholar at Michigan State, he has been a post-doctoral fellow at Oxford University and the University of Michigan and been a research fellow at the University of Valencia.