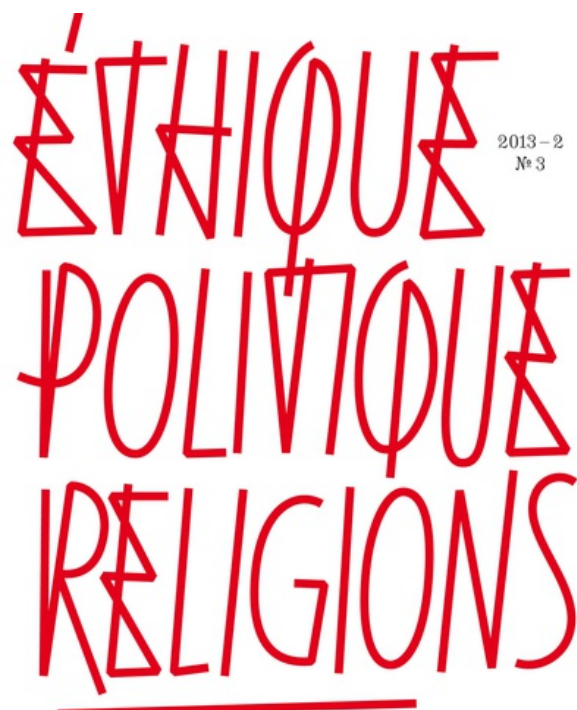


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Prendre soin de la nature et des hommes



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## Peut-on étendre l'éthique du soin à l'environnement ?

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[. Prendre soin de la nature et des hommes](#)
- **Author:** Bertrand (Aliénor)
- **Abstract:** Can the ethics of *care* be extended to the environment ? Is it possible to base an environmental ethic on an ethic of *care* ? Can *care*, or the absence of *care*, be an effective lever for social and political critique ? The object of this article is to assess the extent to which the ambition of the ethic of *care* – radically rethinking our relation putting our relations to the natural world – can be realized. The study of social relations based on *care* can be summed up by the question : “*Who cares* ?”. There is no obvious analogy between this question and those that are supposed to extend the ethics of *care* to environmental topics : “*Who pollutes* ?” or “*Who destroys* ?”. The criticisms addressed by Joan Tronto to Ulrich Beck, as well as the analysis of our relation to animals put forward by the theorists of *care*, show that extending *care* to the environment can imply two forms of engagement : 1. a socio-economic analysis which does not simply describe a system of domination based on genders and races ; 2. an attempt to found the principles of ethical action on an individual basis, as in the case of eco-citizenship, or on a gendered basis, as in the case of eco-feminism. Only the first of these alternatives realizes the ambition of radical social transformation to which the ethic of *care* aspires. This raises the question of whether it is coherent and realistic to reverse the social balance of power produced by capitalism thanks to a democratization of *care*, without a strong ethic of rights and laws.
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