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Worldcreation: A Critical Phenomenology of Disability and Care

5:30 PM

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The social model of disability famously distinguishes between impairment and disability. This distinction has helped pave the way for everything from the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2006. Yet, the social model has come under increasing criticism in contemporary philosophy of disability. Through an exploration of my family's caregiving experiences with my late brother, I defend a modified form of the social model, arguing that disability occurs in the space between capacity and care. Drawing especially from the tradition of feminist care ethics, I discuss the philosophical, historical, and socio-political import of caring systems, their centrality for just institutions, and their role in what I call worldcreation. In these increasingly polarized and volatile times, the principle of care should be at the heart of not only disability politics, but national and international social justice movements more broadly.

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