

# The Ethics of Close Relationships

## Call for Papers

1<sup>st</sup> August 2015 – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Relationships are the fabric of our lives. They shape us and our societies. Yet, despite their manifest importance, they have not attracted much of philosophical attention. Although they have been studied by psychologists and sociologists, relatively few philosophers make close relationships the central subject of their research. Throughout most of the history of philosophy, scholars have focused on individuals and societies, and much less attention was devoted to a wide range of close relationships into which we are born, in which our identities are made, and into which we enter in the course of our lives. Some notable exceptions include the study of friendship by Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, Immanuel Kant, the study of romantic and parental love by Erich Fromm or Harry Frankfurt, the analysis of the contrast between personal relationships and close relationships by Hugh LaFollette, and the recent work in feminist ethics.

Close relationships evoke ambivalent responses. They provide social, emotional, and normative resources necessary for a successful life. But they can also be often experienced as a limitation of individual freedom and one's sense of independence. Some of them are entered voluntarily, others are not chosen. Close relationships can enrich individual life by offering experiences of connectedness and sharing, but they can also be very demanding with their complex relations of responsibility for the other person. These ambivalences and complexities require not only sociological and psychological attention but also a thorough ethical study.





The editorial board of *Etyka* invites authors of various academic backgrounds to submit original papers on the ethics of close relationships. We welcome contributions on different kinds of close relationships, such as romantic love, parent-child relationship, friendship, companionship, etc., and on more specific themes of trust, love, connectedness, forgiveness, betrayal, interdependence, responsibility for the other, intimacy, caring, emotional support, and affection. We also invite articles devoted to the ethical problems that arise in connection with close relationships such as romantic love in professional settings (client-lawyer, physician-patient), or abuses and exploitation that occur in close relationships. The list is just a sample.

The contributions can utilise and combine various methodologies of philosophy, social science, psychology, literary studies and many others. Their approaches can be theoretical, conceptual, normative, empirical, comparative or historical.

Manuscripts should be submitted in English or in Polish at [etyka@uw.edu.pl](mailto:etyka@uw.edu.pl). They should not exceed 6000 words, with an abstract (in English) of 150-250 words, and should be formatted as described at <http://etyka.uw.edu.pl/en/information/for-authors/> (in English) or <http://etyka.uw.edu.pl/informacje/dla-autorow/> (in Polish). Manuscripts will be peer-reviewed anonymously (all information that can identify their authors being removed by the editor) by two or more independent reviewers. Manuscripts will be evaluated on the basis of relevance, clarity, and originality. Submitted articles should not have been previously published nor currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. For further information please write to the volume editor, Joanna Iwanowska: [joanna.karolina.iwanowska@student.uw.edu.pl](mailto:joanna.karolina.iwanowska@student.uw.edu.pl).