

Project title

An exploration of the relevance of an ethic of care within Scottish social care policy

Exchange Fellow

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Duration of Project

January 2014 – November 2014

Project Overview

Overall project aim: the development of understanding of an “ethic of care” and its importance to emerging social care policy within a Scottish context.

The focus of this project is the exploration of the relationship between Tronto’s assertion that caring is a ‘species activity’, and locating it within a distinctly Scottish public policy discourse, a discourse that wants to assert itself as being different and ‘fairer’ from that of a wider UK discourse of personalisation. Taking Tronto’s 4 domains of care, it is the aim of this project to examine the importance of this body of literature to the development of care services and whether approaches to care are no longer defined and accorded value through the language of the market. Exploring critically whether there is evidence from Scottish social policy to substantiate Tronto’s assertion. If this is the case, is the influence and role of managerialist forces, which centralize power and control within public systems and structures, less apparent within the Scottish policy and practice landscape? Is it the case that social policy in Scotland is framing personalisation in such a way that it is less about the pursuit of self and more about the inter-dependent and relational self?

Summary of project outputs:

- Prepare for peer review an article for the Alter journal and supervised reading paper
- Develop academic craft skills
- Further contribute to an understanding of an ethic of care that is relevant to social policy in Scotland
- Critically analyse data using Nvivo software package