

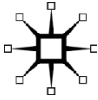
## Care, Uncertainty and Intergenerational Ethics

# Care, Uncertainty and Intergenerational Ethics

Christopher Groves

*School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University, UK*

palgrave  
macmillan



© Christopher Groves 2014

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2014

All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.

No portion of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, or under the terms of any licence permitting limited copying issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, Saffron House, 6–10 Kirby Street, London EC1N 8TS.

Any person who does any unauthorized act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

The author has asserted his right to be identified as the author of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

First published 2014 by  
PALGRAVE MACMILLAN

Palgrave Macmillan in the UK is an imprint of Macmillan Publishers Limited, registered in England, company number 785998, of Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS.

Palgrave Macmillan in the US is a division of St Martin's Press LLC, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010.

Palgrave Macmillan is the global academic imprint of the above companies and has companies and representatives throughout the world.

Palgrave® and Macmillan® are registered trademarks in the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe and other countries

ISBN 978-1-349-34761-2      ISBN 978-1-137-31755-1 (eBook)  
DOI 10.1057/9781137317551

This book is printed on paper suitable for recycling and made from fully managed and sustained forest sources. Logging, pulping and manufacturing processes are expected to conform to the environmental regulations of the country of origin.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.

Transferred to Digital Printing in 2015

*For my parents,  
Bob and Shirley;  
and for my children,  
Felix and Oscar*

# Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	x

## Part I

<b>1 Introduction: Responsibility and Reflexive Uncertainty</b>	<b>3</b>
Overview	3
Constructing uncertainty	9
The ubiquity of ‘risk thinking’	11
Reflexive uncertainty and ignorance	15
Conclusion	22
<b>2 The Limits of Intergenerational Justice</b>	<b>26</b>
Introduction: the birth of a problem	26
Subjective and objective utilitarianism	28
The ‘standard economic view’	28
Needs and justice	30
Problems in common	32
Rawls: primary goods	34
Barry: productive capacity	37
Reciprocity and non-identity	40
Rawls and the problem of reciprocity	42
Alternative arguments from rights	45
Conclusion	47
<b>3 The Limits of Precaution</b>	<b>50</b>
Introduction	50
Beck’s analysis of reflexive uncertainty	51
The precautionary principle and ‘actually existing’ risk society	58
The limits of Beck’s cosmopolitanism and precaution	64
Conclusion	71
<b>4 Administrative Imaginaries and Intergenerational Ethics</b>	<b>74</b>
Introduction	74
Shared imaginaries	76
On whose behalf?	79
Managing the future	87
Conclusion	92

**Part II**

<b>5</b>	<b>Care and uncertain futures</b>	<b>97</b>
	Introduction	97
	Defining care	101
	Phenomenology: care as disclosure and temporal horizon	102
	Feminism: care as disposition and as practice	104
	The objects of care	113
	On attachment and the secure space	113
	Widening the secure space	118
	The role of narrative	123
	Conclusion: care and time	127
<b>6</b>	<b>Normative Implications of Care</b>	<b>131</b>
	Introduction: reviewing the argument	131
	Some objections to a care perspective	135
	Realising constitutive values	139
	Responsibilities to care for future worlds	144
	Conclusion	157
<b>7</b>	<b>Towards a Political Morality of Uncertainty</b>	<b>161</b>
	Introduction	161
	From circles of attachment to expanded horizons of care	163
	Care and ethical life	166
	From care as ethical life to a political morality of care	173
	Conclusion	180
<b>8</b>	<b>Horizons of Care</b>	<b>184</b>
	Introduction	184
	Reconsidering care and reflexive uncertainty	186
	Engineering the Anthropocene	194
	Engineering the climate	201
	Alternative stories: from management to care	209
	Conclusion: three images of futuring	215
	<i>Notes</i>	218
	<i>Bibliography</i>	224
	<i>Name Index</i>	239
	<i>Subject Index</i>	242

# Acknowledgements

Material from Chapter 1 has appeared in a different form in A. Grinbaum and C. Groves (2013) 'What Is "Responsible" about Responsible Innovation? Understanding the Ethical Issues', in John Beasant, Maggy Heintz and Richard Owen, eds., *Responsible Innovation*, John Wiley & Sons. Some arguments featured in Chapters 5 and 6 also made an initial appearance elsewhere, in C. Groves, (2011) 'The Political Imaginary of Care: Generic versus Singular Futures', *Journal of International Political Theory*, 7(2), pp. 165–89.

Thanks are due for comments on papers based on the material included herein from audiences at Thinking (With)Out Borders II: The St Andrews International Political Theory Conference, held on 1–2 July 2010 at the University of St Andrews, and at the Tenth Essex Conference in Critical Political Theory, held on 16–18 June 2010 at the University of Essex. I would also like to express my gratitude to attendees at Cardiff University's Department of Philosophy Research Seminar in February 2014 for comments on my paper 'Risk, Uncertainty, and Concern for Future People', which drew on Chapters 1 and 6.

The manuscript has benefited from attentive readings and many helpful criticisms from a number of valued and extremely patient colleagues. Barbara Adam, Robin Attfield, Sue Clegg, Daniel Engster, and particularly Paul Anderson and John Barry all read and commented on substantial portions of the text. The book has been immeasurably improved thanks to their efforts; whatever imperfections or errors remain are, needless to say, entirely my own responsibility.

Barbara Adam also has my gratitude for her intellectual inspiration, friendship and guidance, without which this book would never have been written. Nor would it have been completed without the love and support of Nina Gregory.

# List of Abbreviations

AGW	anthropogenic global warming
CBA	cost/benefit analysis
CDR	carbon dioxide removal
CE	climate engineering
IJ	intergenerational justice
PP	precautionary principle
RCBA	risk-based cost/benefit analysis
SEV	'Standard Economic View' (after Douglas MacLean, 1983)
SRM	solar radiation management