*Care and Justice*

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This paper takes stock of the debate among philosophers about the relationship between care and justice. Starting from Carol Gilligan’s original analysis, it traces the debate up to contemporary times and reviews the contributions of philosophers such as Virginia Held and Michael Slote. Noting that existing positions rest upon hazy ideas about justice, it then explores how care ethics is similar to and different from mainstream justice theories. Based on this analysis, it proposes a new interpretation of the relationship between care and justice. Although care ethics can support a comprehensive justice theory that applies to all domains of social activity, it is suggested that a care ethics of justice is not necessarily the best guide for policies or actions that involve stark conflicts between parties.