

# HUMAN DEPENDENCY AND CHRISTIAN ETHICS

Dependency is a central aspect of human existence, as are dependent care relations: relations between caregivers and young children, persons with disabilities, or frail elderly persons. In this book, Sandra Sullivan-Dunbar argues that many prominent interpretations of Christian love either obscure dependency and care, or fail to adequately address injustice in the global social organization of care. Sullivan-Dunbar engages a wide-ranging interdisciplinary conversation among Christian ethics, economics, political theory, and care scholarship, drawing on the rich body of recent feminist work reintegrating dependency and care into the economic, political, and moral spheres. She identifies essential elements of a Christian ethic of love and justice for dependent care relations in a globalized care economy. She also suggests resources for such an ethic including Catholic social thought, feminist political ethics of care, disability and vulnerability studies, and Christian theological accounts of the divine-human relation.

Sandra Sullivan-Dunbar is Associate Professor of Christian Ethics at Loyola University Chicago, where she teaches feminist ethics, social ethics and sexual ethics. She holds a PhD in Religious Ethics from the University of Chicago, an MA in Ethics and Social Theory from the Graduate Theological Union, a Master of Divinity from the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University, and a Master of Public Policy from the University of California at Berkeley.



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Christian ethics has increasingly assumed a central place within academic theology. At the same time, the growing power and ambiguity of modern science and the rising dissatisfaction within the social sciences about claims to value neutrality have prompted renewed interest in ethics within the secular academic world. There is, therefore, a need for studies in Christian ethics that, as well as being concerned with the relevance of Christian ethics to the present-day secular debate, are well informed about parallel discussions in recent philosophy, science, or social science. New Studies in Christian Ethics aims to provide books that do this at the highest intellectual level and demonstrate that Christian ethics can make a distinctive contribution to this debate – either in moral substance or in terms of underlying moral justifications.

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## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
4843/24, 2nd Floor, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Delhi – 110002, India
79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107168893 DOI: 10.1017/9781316717677

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First published 2017

Printed in the United States of America by Sheridan Books, Inc.

 $A\ catalogue\ record\ for\ this\ publication\ is\ available\ from\ the\ British\ Library.$ 

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Names: Sullivan-Dunbar, Sandra, author.
Title: Human dependency and Christian ethics / Sandra Sullivan-Dunbar.
Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom; New York, NY, USA: Cambridge
University Press, [2017] | Series: New studies in Christian ethics |
Includes bibliographical references and index.
Identifiers: LCCN 2017034301 | ISBN 9781107168893 (hardback) |
ISBN 9781316619773 (pbk.)

Subjects: LCSH: Christian ethics. | Caring – Religious aspects – Christianity. |
Helping behavior – Religious aspects – Christianity.
Classification: LCC BJ1275.8855 2017 | DDC 241–dc23
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2017034301

ISBN 978-1-107-16889-3 Hardback

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## Acknowledgments

I could not have written this book without many kinds of support from many different institutions and people. It is delightful, and pleasantly surreal, to finally be able to commit my thanks to paper for publication.

Some portions of this book began as parts of my dissertation. Though he may be as happy as I am that the work has evolved a great deal since that time, I am very grateful to my director, William Schweiker, who guided me through that process. As I have continued to shape the manuscript in the years since receiving my doctorate, I have often heard his voice in my head, offering feedback. Sometimes the voice has appeared when, after grappling with the material for some time, I saw a weakness he had pointed to long ago, and thought, "Oh, no wonder Bill thought this needed correction!" My education continues as I grow into my vocation, as does his influence.

Many other academic mentors helped this book come to fruition. I am deeply grateful to Kathryn Tanner, who served on my dissertation committee, saw promise, and provided encouragement. Cristina Traina has been a mentor now for many years and has provided advice and support first in navigating my doctoral program and then through the process of bringing my book to publication. As Chair of the Theology Department at Loyola University Chicago, Susan Ross helped me to navigate my pretenure years; she was a dedicated advocate for junior faculty and provided a supportive ear. All three of these women provided invaluable affirmation and critical feedback on my work as well. My debt to them is immense and I will try to pay it forward.

I've been fortunate to receive feedback, critique, and mentorship as well from members of the Society of Christian Ethics, including particularly Barbara Hilkert Andolsen, Mary Jo Iozzio, Julie Hanlon Rubio, Patti Jung, and several anonymous reviewers of conference presentations that have worked their way into this book.

My friends and colleagues, Aana Vigen, Tisha Rajendra, and Devorah Schoenfeld, have commiserated, critiqued, and supported me in countless



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## Acknowledgments

ways. And indeed, I am grateful to my entire department. I am very lucky to have landed in an institution that feels like a true professional home and to teach Loyola students, who are hardworking, appreciative of their education, and deeply committed to social justice.

I am happy to publicly thank the American Association of University Women, who awarded me an American Postdoctoral Research Fellowship for the academic year 2014–2015. I am grateful for the support of Loyola University Chicago for granting me a semester's research leave in 2011, followed by a subvented leave during my American Association of University Women (AAUW) fellowship year; without this support, completion of the book would have been difficult. I am also grateful for financial support received during the early (dissertation) stage of writing, as a Fellow of the Martin Marty Center at the University of Chicago, and then as the recipient of a Dissertation Fellowship from the Louisville Institute.

Mary Ellen O'Driscoll received many phone calls when I was not sure I would be finishing a book. She was quite sure I would be, and her certainty allowed me to keep at it. I treasure her friendship.

This book reflects as well the academic formation I received at the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University; the Graduate Theological Union; and the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley. My teaching, writing, and thinking are still influenced by faculty at these institutions, including particularly William O'Neill, S.J.; Karen Lebacqz; Martha Ellen Stortz; John Donahue, S.J.; Lee Friedman; and David Kirp.

The book has been made much better by the very thoughtful feed-back I have received from the anonymous reviewers commissioned by Cambridge University Press. My editor at Cambridge, Beatrice Rehl, has been invaluable in helping me navigate the book review and production process for the first time. Sara Wilhelm Garbers has provided outstanding and detail-oriented bibliographical and production assistance.

I would be remiss, in a book on dependent care relations, if I did not acknowledge the deeply skilled and loving care my children received from others while I studied and wrote. I especially thank Sahana Ward, Joanna Spilioti, Catherine Scheib, Jayme Gualtier, and Sarah Hajduk Woltmann.

I am grateful to my parents, Richard Sullivan and Judith Haines Sullivan, who provided the care that allowed me to grow into a parent, professor, and now writer of a book. They are my unfailing cheerleaders. They have provided support both emotional and financial, and thereby made my academic career possible.



## Acknowledgments

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Finally, and most pervasively, I am grateful to my husband, Don Dunbar, who made it possible for me to do this work while co-parenting our two sons. He models for them deep paternal engagement in caregiving responsibility. And I am thankful as well to my boys, Ian and Cullen, without whom I would not likely be writing on this subject in this way. They are delightful human beings, patient with their academic mother, and I know they will work to make the world a place that is more hospitable to care and just to its caregivers.