Reviewer's report

Title: The changing landscape of care: does ethics education have a new role to play in health practice?

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Reviewer: Miran Epstein

Reviewer's report:

This paper makes a novel counterintuitive and counter-orthodox point: for the ethical discourse and education to be really critical they must be subjected to a critique of the social (and primarily economic) context in which the 'ethical' problems are entrenched.

I wish to congratulate the author for raising this important point. Indeed, the current ethical discourse and education are totally de-contextualised and hence uncritical and necessarily conservative. In other words, they effectively conceal and thereby reinforce the fundamental problems and the power relations that give rise to them in the first place. They become 'ideology'.

I have two minor comments, though:

1. The thesis merits no less than a book. In this sense, a journal article can be no more than a brief introduction. The author may wish to clarify this point in the text.

2. I think the author places too much importance on personal development. True, the latter is no doubt a mediator in social development, but personalisation of the struggle for a better medicine is, I believe, self-defeating. The author may contemplate adding a note that the this struggle could be successful only if it were to be collective, and only if it were part of the greater struggle for a radical social change.

p.s. I would welcome the author to contact me at m.epstein@qmul.ac.uk. I am currently writing a book precisely on this subject and would be happy to collaborate on related topics.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
My political interests fully coincide with those of the author. However, as a medical ethicist and I am effectively being paid to represent the power and the interests that the author so rightly criticises.