

**UWM WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES
FEMINIST LECTURE SERIES**

Proudly Presents



Nancy Fraser

**Henry & Louise Loeb Professor of Political & Social Science
New School for Social Research**

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1:00 pm

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Crisis of Care? Social Contradictions of Neoliberal Capitalism

Many observers posit that we are living through a “crisis of care.” But what exactly is in crisis here? Are our current care deficits rooted primarily in an “imbalance of family and work,” and can they be solved by reforming the latter? Or are we facing a broader, more far-reaching crisis, of which the “crisis of care” constitutes but one strand, inextricably interwoven with others? And in that case, what is the true object of the crisis, and what are its deep-structural sources?

Nancy Fraser argues that our present dysfunctions of care are best understood as expressions, under historically specific contemporary conditions, of a general tendency to social-reproductive crisis that is intrinsic to capitalist societies. Fraser elaborates this thesis in three steps. First, she proposes a general account of “the social-reproductive contradiction of capitalism” *as such*, without reference to any particular historical form. Then, Fraser sketches the unfolding of this contradiction in two previous historical forms of capitalist society: the liberal competitive capitalism of the 19th century, and the state-managed form of the 20th. Finally, Fraser sketches an account of our current crisis of care as an expression of capitalism’s social-reproductive contradiction in its present, financialized phase.

Nancy Fraser is the Henry and Louise A. Loeb Professor of Philosophy and Politics at the New School for Social Research. She works on social and political theory, feminist theory, and contemporary French and German thought.

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