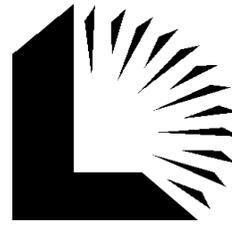


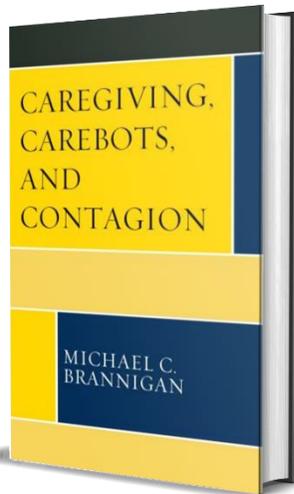
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Caregiving, Carebots, and Contagion

By Michael C. Brannigan



"This book builds an essential bridge between bioethics, care, and technology. In this insightful and inspiring reflection on human beings and their environment, Brannigan invites his readers to reflect on the meaning of care in the technological world. Hence, this brilliant book invites specialists, scholars, health care professionals and the large audience to question the meaning of bioethics today and to revise its structure in theory and practice in order to be able to provide care for the present and future society. It is a must read."

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ABOUT THIS BOOK

Would you want to be cared for by a robot? Michael C. Brannigan's *Caregiving, Carebots, and Contagion* explores caring robots' lifesaving benefits, particularly during contagion, while probing the threat they pose to interpersonal engagement and genuine human caregiving. As our COVID-19 purgatory lingers on, caring robots will join our nursing and healthcare frontlines. Carebots can perform lifesaving tasks to minimize infection, safeguard vulnerable persons, and relieve caregivers of certain burdens. They also spark profound moral and existential questions: What is caring? How will we relate with each other? What does it mean to be human?

Underscoring carebots' hands-on benefits, Brannigan also warns us of perils. They can be a dangerous lure in a culture that settles for substitutes and venerates the screen. Alerting us to the threatening prospect of care bots becoming our surrogate for interpersonal connection, he maintains they are not the culprits. The challenge lies in how we relate to them. While they beneficially complement our caregiving, carebots cannot replace human caring. Caring is a fundamentally human act and lies at the heart of ethics. As humans, we have a binding moral responsibility to care for the Other, and genuine caring demands our embodied, human-to-human presence.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael C. Brannigan is adjunct professor of intercultural bioethics at Albany Medical College and adjunct professor of philosophy at Salve Regina University.

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