

Abstract

This is the foundational analysis of Margaret Urban Walker's *Moral Understandings: A Feminist Study in Ethics*, published in 1998. The central concept of Walker's work is the development of the expressive-collaborative model of ethical discourse. The expressive collaborative model is a participatory model that engages people of all different kinds in a deliberative process that develops shared morality for a community. She develops this model as an alternative to the theoretical-judicial model, which she identifies as having shaped the prevailing dominant moral understanding. This study examines the foundations of Walker's system of ethics using the framework of epistemology, identity politics, and rights and obligations. Upon clearer understanding of the expressive-collaborative model, its application is sought in the educational administrative context and its limitations unearthed.