Vulnerability, Care and the Constitutional State

Abstract: The so called “vulnerability turn” mainly involved ethics. This line of thought encountered with feminist analyses, especially with those developing an “ethics of care”. In the following pages I will recall the main stages of contemporary philosophical reflection on vulnerability, focusing on the relationships between vulnerability theory and some versions of the ethics of care. I will then try to suggest how the theses concerning vulnerability (and care), which today are predominantly held by North- American scholars, can be employed in Europe, in the light of the evolution of the “Constitutional rule of law”.

Keywords: Vulnerability, Care, Equality, Feminist theory.