

Appendix: Patterns of Everyday Care

Shared Habits and Routines

Each of these patterns describes a temporal rhythm or “vocabulary of time” for care (e.g., lingering, resting, tending). They highlight social situations in which implicit care feels natural.

Pattern & description	Cultural examples & observed practices	Design questions & implications	Care foregrounded & potential risks
Lingering and Drift Prolonged presence, meandering talk, exceeding task boundaries.	<i>Sobremesa</i> (Spanish) – post-meal lingering; <i>Passeggiata</i> (Italian) – evening stroll. Banter or general chatting after a game event, livestream, webinar, or other virtual event has “officially” ended.	How can platforms make lingering easier without overdesigning it (e.g., after-event prompts, “soft spaces”)? How can platforms recognize habitual low-stakes presence as valuable time? Support light, unstructured continuation, such as soft-close timers, optional “afterglow” threads, and ambient spaces that do not require active posting or engagement.	Care: intimacy within unhurried, shared time; patience and continued presence. Risks: overextension and fatigue; lingering that feels exclusive, intrusive, or unproductive to newcomers.



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<p>Gentle Idleness Daily, low-stakes participation and rest that are treated as a legitimate form of being together.</p>	<p><i>Siesta</i> (Spanish) – collective pause; <i>Fika</i> (Swedish) – break for coffee and unhurried conversation; <i>Dolce far niente</i> (Italian) – celebrating inactivity and unstructured time; <i>Ma</i> (Japanese 間) – meaningful emptiness and non-activity that lets relationships breathe.</p> <p>Quiet channels, downtime rituals, meme-thread “loitering,” collective breaks from intensive engagement.</p>	<p>Can platforms intentionally design for collective silence or rest? How might idleness be recognized as participation rather than absence?</p> <p>Idle-presence indicators, “silent rooms,” mood or status messages that invite company without pressure to respond.</p>	<p>Care: quiet presence and shared silence as participation; validating rest and emotional pacing.</p> <p>Risks: quiet members may be overlooked; idleness may be misread as disengagement; idleness from truly absent members may be misinterpreted.</p>
<p>Cyclic Gatherings Reinforcing social continuity through recurring events and seasons.</p>	<p><i>Volksmarching</i> (German) – non-competitive social walking; <i>Parkrun</i> (UK) – weekly social running events; <i>Cycle of Sabbats and Esbats</i> (Wiccan) – large holiday gatherings vs. more frequent small ones; <i>Hanami</i> (花見 Japanese) – transient seasonal gatherings to view cherry blossoms.</p> <p>Weekly streams, recurring group rituals, seasonal events, server anniversaries, weekly discussion threads, monthly check-ins.</p>	<p>How can digital rituals encourage belonging through low-barrier participation? How can time-bound events create durable communal memory? How might platforms help communities build cyclical rituals at multiple scales?</p> <p>Develop scaffolds for cyclical rituals, such as event templates, reminders, commemorative archives, “time since last gathering” prompts, or collective milestone markers.</p>	<p>Care: creates continuity and a sense of “we still exist.”</p> <p>Risks: ritual fatigue if participation feels obligatory; members who miss important events may feel excluded.</p>

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Rhythmic Maintenance Routine tending and collective upkeep. Sustaining infrastructures, relationships, and norms through small, repeated actions that prevent breakdown.	<i>Pumasi</i> (품앗이, Korean) – collective reciprocal labor; <i>Gotong Royong</i> (Indonesian) – cooperative community work; <i>Mutirão</i> (Indigenous Brazilian) – collective labor for community maintenance. Weekly moderation sweeps, thread archiving, channel clean-ups, “maintenance days,” collaborative wiki or knowledge base updates.	How might platforms make invisible maintenance work visible and appreciated? How can recurring upkeep feel communal rather than purely administrative? How can tools encourage small, rhythmic contributions rather than one-time heroic labor? Shared responsibility dashboards, rotation reminders, “maintenance ritual” threads, progress indicators, and ways to surface gratitude for upkeep.	Care: routine tending as a form of collective care. Risks: maintenance labor remains invisible or undervalued; unequal participation may lead to resentment or burnout.

Atmospheric Qualities

Each of these patterns focuses on affective tone: how it feels to be “in” a community.

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Cozy Cohesion Atmosphere of warmth through shared comfort, silence, or gentle humor.	<i>Hygge</i> (Danish) – cozy, content, comfortable mood; <i>Gezelligheid</i> (Dutch) – social, funny, relaxed situation. “Vibing” in voice chat; shared silence; shared joking or teasing; lighthearted banter.	How can platforms recognize atmosphere as part of community health? How might platforms foster conviviality without forcing it? Support ambient presence indicators, lightweight reactions, and shared informal “soft spaces”; discourage metrics that equate volume of chatter with “engagement.”	Care: psychological safety and emotional generosity. Risks: comfort might suppress critique; “cozy” culture may exclude outsiders or dissenting voices.

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<p>Hospitable Opening Making space for newcomers and for informal, cross- or off-topic talk.</p>	<p><i>Majlis</i> (Arabic) and <i>Salons</i> (French) – hospitality spaces for conversation and connection.</p> <p>Off-topic lounges, hangout channels, “welcome” spaces.</p>	<p>How might designated hospitality zones invite care and informality without overwhelming hosts or regulars?</p> <p>Explicit hospitality zones; visible greeters; low-stakes entry rituals; careful balance between permeability and privacy.</p>	<p>Care: lowers thresholds for participation and encourages informality.</p> <p>Risks: hospitality can become performative; too much permeability may exhaust regulars or attract bad-faith actors.</p>
<p>Reflective Continuity Opportunities for acknowledging a community’s history and celebrating change, loss, and endurance.</p>	<p><i>Saudade</i> (Portuguese) – nostalgic longing; <i>Sisu</i> (Finnish) – endurance and collective grit.</p> <p>Throwback memes, reminiscing threads, “remember when” posts, jokes about shared difficulty (“we suffer together”).</p>	<p>How might platforms archive and curate collective memory to sustain bonds? How can endurance feel communal rather than isolating?</p> <p>Lightweight archives, “memory prompts,” reflection built into event cycles, ways of framing endurance as shared achievement.</p>	<p>Care: affirms mutual history and resilience.</p> <p>Risks: nostalgia can accidentally inhibit growth; valorizing endurance may normalize burnout or self-sacrifice.</p>
<p>Playful Inversion Temporary relaxing or reversing of norms (or safely breaking rules).</p>	<p><i>Carnival</i> (Christian) – temporary norm inversion; <i>Holi</i> (Hindu) – playful messiness bridging class and gender divides; <i>Mardi Gras</i> – sanctioned eccentricity.</p> <p>Roast weeks, meme floods, playful “chaos” days.</p>	<p>How might platforms allow sanctioned rule-bending events without undermining norms overall?</p> <p>Time-boxed “rule-bending” modes, temporary roles or themes, clearly framed as play rather than anarchy.</p>	<p>Care: renews energy and bonds through shared laughter and risk.</p> <p>Risks: boundary confusion if not clearly bounded; humor can wound or reinforce power asymmetries.</p>

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<p>Respectful Stillness Care through withholding, rather than creating, energy.</p>	<p><i>Shizuka</i> (Japanese 静か) – calm, quiet serenity; <i>Shanti</i> (Sanskrit शान्ति) – peace or tranquility; <i>Jítǐ chénmò de ānwèi</i> (Mandarin 集体沉默的安慰) – the comfort of collective silence.</p> <p>Intentionally empty or minimally commented threads (often with reactions only) for respect; statuses indicating deep work or grief.</p>	<p>How can digital systems signal when quiet is valued without enforcing silence? What might respectful stillness look like online beyond an absence of posts? How might designs prevent algorithmic amplification from disrupting delicate atmospheres?</p> <p>“Quiet mode” options for threads; gentle pauses before posting; ways to surface reactions or presence without text; ritual entry/exit cues for reflection spaces.</p>	<p>Care: acknowledges that not every situation needs words; shared silence can honor emotion, privacy, or concentration.</p> <p>Risks: silence may look like apathy or avoidance; comfort with quiet varies; “quiet” norms can suppress needed dissent.</p>

Collective Identity

Each of these patterns describes how communities imagine and sustain a shared “we.”

Pattern & description	Cultural examples & observed practices	Design questions & implications	Care foregrounded & potential risks
<p>Harmonic Balance Group equilibrium through attunement to atmosphere and rhythm.</p>	<p><i>Wa</i> (Japanese 和) – harmony; <i>Noon-chi</i> (Korean 눈치) – sensitivity to others’ moods and expectations.</p> <p>Presence status or cues (online, typing), ambient indicators of activity (e.g., heat maps, read/seen indicators, emoji reactions).</p>	<p>How can community rhythm (when to speak, rest, or listen) be made visible or accessible to participants? How can silence, low posting, or mood shifts be treated as signals of pacing rather than decline? How might platforms scaffold “emotional calibration” (subtle sensing of tone and fatigue)?</p> <p>Features that reveal social rhythm and tone and support pacing and subtle coordination.</p>	<p>Care: shared rhythm supports equilibrium and collective responsiveness.</p> <p>Risks: pressure to conform; suppression of strong emotions or dissent; conflict may become less visible.</p>

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<p>Relational Reciprocity Self is constituted through mutual recognition and exchange.</p>	<p><i>Ubuntu</i> (many Bantu languages) – relational personhood and humanity; <i>Renqing</i> (Mandarin 人情往来) – reciprocal exchange of favors; <i>Ummah</i> (Arabic أُمَّة) – communal belonging that transcends other boundaries; <i>Sangha</i> (Sanskrit संघ) – interdependence through shared practice; <i>Tikkun Olam</i> (Hebrew תיקון עולם) – repairing the world;</p> <p>Mutual aid groups, neighborhood sharing and “no-buy” groups, kudos and thanks systems.</p>	<p>How can digital systems translate mutual acknowledgment into social value? How might platforms encourage cyclical generosity without making it transactional? How can subtle reciprocation (listening, reacting, tagging) be recognized as valuable participation?</p> <p>Systems that foreground acknowledgment, mutual aid, and visible small acts of care rather than only content production.</p>	<p>Care: mutual recognition and ongoing exchange of support.</p> <p>Risks: reciprocity may become transactional or coercive; people unable to “return” care may feel excluded.</p>
<p>Stewardship and Kinship “We” extends to land, ancestors, and future generations.</p>	<p><i>Comunalidad</i> (Spanish) – reciprocal stewardship and interconnectedness between people and environment; <i>Kaitiakitanga</i> (Māori) – guardianship of place; <i>Aloha ‘Āina</i> (Hawaiian) – kinship between people and land;</p> <p>Open-source and modding projects with a visible “lineage” of maintainers; wikis; community anniversaries or retrospectives that honor past members.</p>	<p>How can systems make care for place, memory, and future participants part of community governance? How might digital communities inherit from past members and preserve knowledge? How can stewardship be distributed across time?</p> <p>Design for long-term guardianship, ecological reciprocity, and intergenerational visibility (e.g., timelines, stewardship roles).</p>	<p>Care: extends belonging across time, place, and sometimes species.</p> <p>Risks: can become moralizing or romanticized; stewardship without shared power risks paternalism.</p>

Facilitation Roles

Each of these patterns expresses a “facilitation logic”—who tends, who guards, and who gathers—and how platforms might recognize these labors without turning them into bureaucracy or burnout.

Pattern & description	Cultural examples & observed practices	Design questions & implications	Care foregrounded & potential risks
Guides and Wayfarers Care expressed through expert guidance and teaching.	<i>Cicerone</i> (Italian) – a guide through complex terrain; <i>Sensei</i> (Japanese せんせい) – teacher/guide for specific practice. Community members who teach raids or game mechanics, walk newcomers through platforms, or guide onboarding.	How might platforms support or reward mentoring roles without overburdening those who take them on? Make teaching visible and lightweight (opt-in “guide modes,” mentor badges, pairing tools, temporary helper roles).	Care: transfer of know-how and encouragement. Risks: burnout and over-reliance on a small group of guides.
Hosts and Conveners Social cohesion comes from creating occasions and atmosphere.	<i>Xenia</i> (Greek ξενία) – hospitality as moral obligation; <i>Salonnière</i> (French) – host who curates conversation across class lines. Members who seed conversation, host art streams, organize movie nights, or create recurring events.	How can platforms recognize and support conversation starters? How can hosting be easier and more visible as a communal contribution? Event templates, host-rotation tools, ways to demonstrate appreciation, reusable scripts and prompts.	Care: creating shared time and mood; inviting others into community life. Risks: invisible labor and dependency on a few “always hosting” members.
Custodians and Gatekeepers Boundary work necessary to protect norms, mediate conflict, and manage rules.	<i>Master of Ceremonies</i> (Catholic) – official responsible for the logistics of rituals. <i>Craft Guild Warden</i> – ensures quality of goods produced by other members. Subreddit rules, Discord ticket systems, moderator teams, community tribunals.	How can care and protection be framed positively rather than punitively? Frame moderation as stewardship; visualize impact; provide repair gestures; avoid punitive UX.	Care: holding and enforcing boundaries for safety and fairness. Risks: drifting into punitive control or authoritarian gatekeeping.

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<p>Rotational Labor Responsibilities and expertise circulate through shared or alternating roles for fair, collective ownership.</p>	<p>Alternating roles in shared infrastructures (e.g., rotating chores); <i>Zhí rì</i> (值日, Mandarin) – rotating student responsibilities for classroom maintenance.</p> <p>Shared moderation duties, rotating event hosts.</p>	<p>How might moderation or hosting be rotated to spread responsibility and avoid burnout? How might “chore-chart” metaphors inspire participation?</p> <p>Automate rotation reminders; create lightweight handoff rituals; dashboards for shared visibility of pending duties; treat rotation as a rhythm rather than an obligation.</p>	<p>Care: fair distribution of care work.</p> <p>Risks: dilution of expertise; inconsistency; perceived lack of accountability.</p>
<p>Professionalized Facilitation Social and emotional facilitation as recognized or compensated service.</p>	<p>Hosting as a service (bartenders, snack-bar hosts, escorts, geishas, coworking front desk staff, event organizers).</p> <p>E-girls, online community managers (for brands or large communities), paid Discord server makers/promoters.</p>	<p>What forms of compensated facilitation already exist online, and how might systems support transparency and consent?</p> <p>Design for sustainable boundaries; make compensation and expectations clear; respect emotional labor as skilled work.</p>	<p>Care: performed empathy and presence are still forms of care.</p> <p>Risks: commodification and exploitation; blurred boundaries around paid intimacy.</p>
<p>Distinct Personalities and Catalysts Charismatic, idiosyncratic, or high-visibility individuals whose presence shapes tone, rhythm, and participation; not necessarily formal leaders.</p>	<p><i>Jali</i> (N’Ko 𞌋𞏲𞏲𞏲) – West African oral history storytellers;</p> <p><i>Karisuma</i> (Japanese カリスマ) – magnetic personalities; community mascots and spokespeople.</p> <p>Forum “regulars,” meme instigators, active jokesters.</p>	<p>How might platforms recognize and support catalytic members without over-amplifying them? How can charisma and eccentricity be valued as assets rather than disruption? How can design prevent a single personality from becoming indispensable?</p> <p>Lightweight recognition (temporary “spark” badges, rotating highlights), tools for sharing facilitation load, algorithmic dampening of overexposure.</p>	<p>Care: charismatic figures keep the social heart beating; their enthusiasm invites participation and warmth.</p> <p>Risks: over-reliance on individuals; burnout or withdrawal destabilizes the group; charisma can tip into gatekeeping, dominance, or parasocial attachment.</p>

Boundary Practices

Each of these patterns is about crossing, maintaining, or dissolving community boundaries: who is in, how they join, and how they leave.

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Welcoming Thresholds Crossing a boundary as an opportunity for greeting and initiating hospitality.	<i>Genkan</i> (Japanese 玄関) – entry space for removing shoes; <i>Sauna</i> (Finnish) – prepared for guests as a sign of welcome	How might threshold rituals be designed to feel welcoming rather than bureaucratic? How can entry requirements double as hospitality rather than friction?	Care: entry as relational gesture; acknowledging newcomers as guests entering a shared home.
	Discord “doorbell” announcements, introduction channels, role selection.	Design lightweight threshold gestures (short greeter messages, emoji acknowledgments); make entry feel ceremonial; visualize “crossing in.”	Risks: rituals can feel forced or awkward; “formality fatigue” for returning members.
Initiations and Commitments Belonging solidified through shared vows, self-presentation, or role assumption.	Initiation rituals with vows or commitments. Structured newcomer introductions, role assignments, “first post” rituals, “react-to-agree” onboarding.	How might entry processes create meaningful belonging rather than gatekeeping? How might entry rituals reinforce belonging through mutual acknowledgment? Build relational scaffolds that turn introductions into reciprocal recognition; emphasize consent and curiosity over vetting; prompt existing members to respond.	Care: mutual recognition and accountability; transforms joining into collaboration on community norms. Risks: can slide into gatekeeping; may privilege performance over authenticity.
	Binding Relations Strengthening continuity by allowing symbolic pairings or affiliations that mark mutual care.	Handfasting and marriage; sworn siblings (Chinese 结义); joking kinship ties. Symbolic pairings, server marriages, “best friend” tags, MySpace-style “top 8” lists.	How can digital platforms support symbolic relational contracts that mark care and commitment? Support low-stakes, reversible symbolic bonds (duo tags, partnership badges, affinity clusters); visualize connections without quantifying intimacy.

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<p>Ritual Containers Creating protected, meaningful, or “sacred” space (including temporary spaces) to signal modes or norm shifts.</p>	<p><i>Casting the circle</i> (Wiccan) – delineating ritual space; <i>Eruv</i> (Hebrew עירוב) – symbolically linking spaces into a shared domain;</p> <p>Channels, threads, or calls that function as “ritual zones”; roles for anchoring a session; pinned memes, emojis, or playlists as ritual objects.</p>	<p>How might platforms support designated “sacred” or safe zones without isolating them? Could platforms scaffold roles that anchor atmosphere without formal hierarchy? What digital equivalents of shared symbolic artifacts can anchor online atmosphere?</p> <p>Support temporary “ritual zones” (threads, calls, channels with clear entry gestures and visual borders); allow participants to take on symbolic or anchoring roles; scaffold shared symbolic artifacts that signal the zone or mode.</p>	<p>Care: acknowledges needs for safety, focus, and shared meaning around particular topics or events.</p> <p>Risks: over-formalization; isolating “sacred” spaces from everyday life; reinforcing insider/outsider divides.</p>
<p>Departures and Protections Exiting and/or exclusion as part of community health and caring for boundaries.</p>	<p><i>Shunning</i> (Amish) – social rejection as discipline; <i>Bon Voyage</i> (French) – ceremonies or wishes marking departure</p> <p>Leaving rituals, soft bans, muted channels, VIP or “level-locked” channels.</p>	<p>How can exclusionary tools be reframed as protective care? How can departures be acknowledged as part of community continuity?</p> <p>Frame exits and removals as mutual protection; create graceful leaving rituals (goodbye threads, temporary invisibility); preserve memory without gossip.</p>	<p>Care: allows communities to signal an “end” with dignity and preserve safety while maintaining continuity.</p> <p>Risks: can moralize exclusion; may mask power abuses behind narratives of “protective” care.</p>