

Moral Psychology

Fall 2010, Tuesdays, 4:15-6:15, CUNY Grad Center

Description

Moral psychology is the study of psychological processes involved in moral judgment and moral behavior. The psychology of morals also has implications for normative ethics (e.g., are leading normative theories psychologically viable?) and meta-ethics (e.g., what are we talking about when we make moral claims?). In this seminar, topics include: What role do emotions play in moral judgment? What is the nature or moral motivation? Is morality an innate capacity? Are any values universal? Are there such things as virtuous character traits? We will look at both interdisciplinary and traditional philosophical approaches.

Instructor

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Aug 31	Introduction: Meta-ethics, normative ethics, and moral psychology
Motivation	
Sep 7	Smith, "The Externalist Challenge" Brink, "Moral Motivation"
Sep 14	Blair, "A Cognitive Developmental Approach to Morality: Investigating the Psychopath" Roskies, "Are Ethical Judgments Intrinsically Motivational? Lessons from Acquired Sociopathy"
Emotion: Philosophical	
Sep 21	McDowell, "Values and Secondary Qualities" Blackburn, "Errors and the Phenomenology of Value" Gibbard, "Moral Judgments as the Acceptance of Norms"
Sep 28	D'Arms and Jacobson, "Sentiment and Value" Schroeter, "The Limits of Sentimentalism"
Emotion: Empirical	
Oct 5	Prinz, "The Emotional Basis of Moral Judgments" Nichols, "Sentimentalism Naturalized" Haidt, "The Emotional Dog and Its Rational Tail"
Oct 12	Greene, "The Secret Joke of Kant's Soul" Huebner, Dwyer, & Hauser "The Role of Emotion in Moral Judgment"
Freedom and Responsibility	
Oct 19	Frankfurt, "Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person" Wolf, "Sanity and the Metaphysics of Responsibility"
Oct 26	Arpaly and Schroeder, "Praise, Blame, and the Whole Self" Nichols & Knobe, "Moral Responsibility & Determinism: The Cognitive Science of Folk Intuitions"
Character and Happiness	
Nov 2	Doris, "Persons, Situations, and Virtue Ethics" Sreenivasan, "Errors and About Errors: Virtue Theory & Trait Attribution"
Nov 9	Haybron, "On Being Happy or Unhappy" Millgram, "What's the Use of Utility?"
Origins of Morality	
Nov 16	Street, "A Darwinian Dilemma for Realist Theories of Value" Boyd and Richerson, "The Evolution of Ultra-Sociality"
Nov 23	Prinz, "Is Morality Innate?" Haidt & Joseph, "Intuitive Ethics: How Innately Prepared Intuitions Generate Culturally Variable Virtues"
Relativism	
Nov 30	Harman, "Moral Relativism" (pp. 1-20) Copp, "Does Moral Theory Need a Concept of Society?"
Dec 7	Nussbaum, "Non-Relative Virtues: an Aristotelian Approach" Robinson & Kurzban "Concordance and Conflict in Intuitions of Justice"