

WK1: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MORALITY

Personality psychology: how do stable individual differences influence behaviour, thought and feeling – cross-situational stability

Social psychology: how do situations shape behaviour, thought and feeling – situational contingency

- | Psychology | Philosophy |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empirical regularities• Descriptive (what causes?)• Morality: response dependent (set of phenomena to which people have moral responses)• Naturalised approach: no supernatural element, grounded in brain | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Linguistic, conceptual analysis• Normative/prescriptive (is it wrong)• Morality: code of conduct, set of rules pertaining to right/good or wrong/bad |
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- **Signature Moral Response (SMR) (Turiel & colleagues)**
 - Serious/wrong/bad
 - Punishable
 - Authority independent (wrong independent of authority's opinion)
 - Appeals to harm
 - Universal (universally wrong)
 - **Signature Conventional Response (SCR)**
 - Less serious/wrong
 - Less punishable
 - Authority dependent (if authority says its wrong, its wrong)
 - No appeals to harm

The key distinguishing feature of the stimulus of harm or welfare

- No-harm violations evoke SMR
- Not all harms evoke the SMR

If an action involve harm, or violates welfare/justice, it elicits SMR.

Theories:

Turiel: Harm -> SMR

Haidt: Harm, No-harm ->SMR

Kelley/Stich: Harm -/-> SMR

Moral foundations theory: (Haidt & Graham)

- Harm/care: concerns about violence/suffering of others
- Fairness/reciprocity: norms of reciprocal relations, equality
- Authority/respect: moral obligations to hierarchical relations
- Ingroup/loyalty: group membership
- Purity/sanctity: moral ideal of living in elevated, less carnal way.