

I. Ethics: Morality

Ethics:

1. **Metaethics:** Where ethics are derived from (the meaning of moral language)
2. **Normative Ethics:** What we straightforwardly think ethics are

Value and Moral Value:

- We should not assume that all value is moral value
 - Etc. Aesthetic value
- Requirements of rationality:
 - You are irrational if you have self-contradictory beliefs (But is this immoral? No)

Categorical Imperative: Objective position on morality developed by Immanuel Kant

- All actions must have universality (If everyone were to do them at all times in all places) => Not even once
- Everyone should be treated as an end rather than a means to an end (You should not manipulate people) => We should absolutely never lie or manipulate
 - Opposed the 'Consequentialists' 'greater good' and we shouldn't try and achieve this
- Should always behave as if you are the absolute moral authority
 - We would be morally obligated to conform to the other's desires (We should subject ourselves to the desires of others)

Three Different Types of Ethical Questions:

1. Ethical Theory (proper)
 - Consequentialist: The morality of an action is to be judged solely by its consequences
 - Deontologist: The study of the nature of duty and obligation (Things that are wrong are always wrong)
 - Theorists: Immanuel Kant
2. Metaethics
 - Abstract ethics questioning what ethical judgments are
3. Moral psychology
 - a. What motivates moral/immoral behaviour?
 - b. How can our reasoning help us become more morally better people?
 - c. Understanding psychological states: Love, resentment, forgiveness

Cultural Relativism - Arguments:

Argument	Weaknesses	Strengths
<p><u>Different Cultures</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Different cultures disagree with each other 2. The best explanation is cultural relativism 3. Cultural relativism is true 	<p>Just because cultures disagree does not prove cultural relativism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What about realities such as mathematics/information/ 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Correct regarding pronunciation of words 2. Correct regarding customs of cultures 3. True of taste (Food, art, etc.)
<p><u>Evolutionary Argument</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our moral beliefs are a product of evolution 2. Evolution is an ever-changing process 3. Since morals are a part of the evolutionary process, they must be ever-changing 4. Therefore, morals are not objective; but relative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversimplification to say that our moral beliefs are a product of evolution • Not all morals are a product of evolution • Genetic Fallacy: The way in which you came to believe something is true <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ E.g. Suppose that your culture has brainwashed you into believing that a certain principle is true 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Tolerance is an important moral value <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Only cultural relativism can make sense of the value of tolerance b. Cultural relativism is true 		

Types of Statements:

Truth-Apt & Not Truth-Apt:

- **Truth-apt:** *The type of claim that is either true or false*
 - E.g. *I was in a lecture today, or I was not*
- **Not Truth-Apt:** *The type of claim that is not true or false*

- E.g. GO BARCELONA!

Speaker Dependence/Independence:

- **Speaker-Independent: Claims that are independent of the subject**
 - E.g. The earth is spherical, mathematics exists
- **Speaker-Dependent:** Statements that are a matter of taste
 - E.g. Coriander tastes great, listening to jazz is enjoyable

Akrasia = The state of mind in which someone acts against their better judgment through weakness or will

- We don't always do what we ought and want to do

The Ring of Gyges: Plato's Republic, Socrates the gadfly

- Why should I be moral
- Gyges finds a magical invisibility ring => Uses it to do immoral things that he finds pleasurable
 - **Glaucon's Challenge:** Would everyone really do immoral things if in possession of the ring?
 - Punishment is not the only deterrent => There exists a moral order (Deontologist)
 - Good acts without people seeing: Gyges claim = invalidated?

A Super Enforcer? - Motivations for being Good:

1. Service to God?
 - But atheists do good things. What about them?
2. Heavenly Punishment:
 -
3. Earthly Punishment
 - But atheists forsake doing certain activities even though they know they are not necessarily as pleasurable