

Psychological Testing, Theories of Ability and Ethics

Week 1: [Ethics](#)

Learning Objective	Notes						
<p>Understand some of the major theoretical approaches to ethics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deontological (duty based): Kantian Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doing the right thing is our duty (moral obligation) ○ Actions are intrinsically right/wrong regardless of outcome ○ We have a duty to do the right thing despite the consequences ○ Focus on underlying intention, not the outcome <table border="1" data-bbox="746 689 1410 1012"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="746 689 1067 786">Ethical despite outcome</th> <th data-bbox="1070 689 1410 786">Not ethical despite outcome</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="746 790 1067 887">Good intention + bad consequence</td> <td data-bbox="1070 790 1410 887">Bad intention + bad consequence</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="746 891 1067 1012">Good intention + good consequence (truly good)</td> <td data-bbox="1070 891 1410 1012">Bad intention + good consequence</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Con: rigid ● Consequentialist (outcome based): Utilitarianism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus on the outcome, not the intention ○ A good outcome=best outcome for the most amount of people ○ Con: can only weigh morality after knowing all the consequences ● Personality Based (virtue ethics) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use virtue as a way of morality ○ A virtuous person will know what to do based on their own kindness and compassion ○ Universal virtuous characteristics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wisdom, creativity, curiosity, fairness, forgiveness, integrity, respectfulness, benevolence ○ Con: abstract and hard to put into practice/teach 	Ethical despite outcome	Not ethical despite outcome	Good intention + bad consequence	Bad intention + bad consequence	Good intention + good consequence (truly good)	Bad intention + good consequence
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<p>Define the meaning of an ethical dilemma</p>	<p>Dilemmas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dilemma: conflict between competing interests/actions ● Ethical Dilemma: clash of ethical principles (eg. breaching confidentiality to ensure client safety) ● Mixed Dilemma: clash of ethical principle and non-ethical considerations (eg. shouldn't provide unnecessary appointments/boss wants to capitalise income) <p>Ethical problems and identifying dilemmas isn't always straightforward</p>						
<p>Outline key principles of ethics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ethical principles stem from considering highly general principles and specific procedural principles <p>7 First Level Principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dignity 						

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Person isn't a means to an end ○ Try to understand differences (cultural/socioeconomic/racial etc) to eliminate/reduce biases ○ Principle A ● Equitability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fair and impartial judgements and relationships ○ Curbs misuse of power ○ Principle A ● Prudence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minimise/eliminate harm ○ Inaction that causes harm, including commission and omission=unethical ○ Principle B ● Honesty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Be sincere with clients ○ If a client is emotionally vulnerable, how honest can you be? Ethical dilemma ○ Principle C ● Openness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Free of hypocrisy ○ When revealing information, aim to uphold confidentiality ○ Dual relationships can complicate this ○ Principle A ● Goodwill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Generate reputation of being kind and genuine ○ Allows clients to engage with you better ○ Principle A/B/C ● Suffering Prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Avoidance of suffering and alleviation ○ Don't engage with things that produce/increase suffering ○ Principle A/B/C
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Know and apply the Australian Psychological Society's Code of Ethics

Code built on 3 general principles

Principles		Ethical Standards
A. Respect for the rights and dignity of people and peoples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regard people as intrinsically valuable ● Respect and protect people's rights ● Be aware of fundamental Western bias 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Justice ● Respect ● Informed consent ● Privacy ● Confidentiality ● Release of information to clients ● Collection of client information from associated parties

	<p>B. Propriety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be aware of what you can/can't do and what you've been trained to practice ● Work under superior for supervision ● Services aim to provide benefit (beneficence) and avoid harm (non-maleficence) ● Practice within legal and professional, ethical and organisational rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Competence ● Record keeping ● Professional responsibility ● Provision of psychological services to multiple clients ● Delegation of professional tasks ● Use of interpreters ● Collaborating with others for the benefit of clients ● Accepting clients of other professionals ● Suspension of psychological services ● Termination of psychological services ● Conflicting demands ● Psychological assessments ● Research
	<p>C. Integrity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understand and recognise power and trust they hold <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exercise power appropriately and honour it ○ Refrain from exploiting clients/as associated parties ● Maintain professional relationships with boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reputable behaviour ● Communication ● Conflict of interest ● Non-exploitation ● Authorship ● Financial arrangements ● Ethics investigations and concerns