A Six-Factor Model of Ethical Decision-Making Diegel, K., & Barth, T.

TCT

Introduction

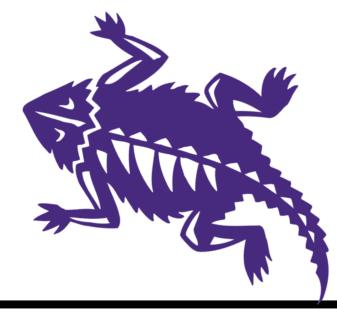
- In 2024 our lab published a study that validated a 5-Factor model of ethical decision-making (Diegel et al., 2024)
- After publication, the source of the initial inspiration for the framework revised their model to add a sixth factor: *Care*
- These studies systematically explore the validity of the inclusion of Care into our current ethical framework of *Utilitarianism*, *Rights, Justice/Fairness, Common Good* and *Virtue.*

Ethical Perspectives

- UTILITARIAN The Ends Justify the Means The Pros vs The Cons
- RIGHTS

Respect the Individual *Everyone Deserves Dignity*

- JUSTICE/FAIRNESS *Treat equals equally and unequals unequally* Fair Treatment with No Exceptions
- COMMON GOOD The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts The Welfare of All
- VIRTUE Be the Best Version of Yourself What would a good person do
- CARE Nurture and Empathize Caring for the Vulnerable



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Experiments Experiment 1 Method N = 307.241 Female, 66 Male $M_{age} = 19.3$ Participants rated ethical leanings using the Ethical Perspectives Scale (EPS). Further, they rated 30 items representing Care ethics. Finally, they answered a series of dilemmas. Results Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) confirmed an independent and unique Care factor and identified the three items that best represent it for future use. Experiment 2 Method N = 441.282 Female, 159 Male $M_{age} = 19.6$ A revised version of the EPS including the 3 identified Care items, was introduced. Participants rated the EPS items, then rated the morality of a number of dilemma scenarios, including new ones focused on perspective and context. Results Confirmatory Factor Analysis of the revised EPS showed the model met or exceeded all recommendation thresholds. **Experiment 3** Method N = 152.99 Female, 53 Male $M_{age} = 19.0$ Participants were given the revised EPS at two time points, three weeks apart. Results Test-retest reliability was established **Experiment** 4 Method N = 501.244 Female, 257 Male $M_{age} = 38.0$ Experiment 4 was identical to Experiment 2, except this took place on CloudResearch Results Confirmatory Factor Analysis revealed the continuing validity of the revised model across a generalized sample.

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Or	1 the r	right ar	ce resu	ılts fro	m Exp	<i>verime</i> ?	nt 4, us	ing a	genera	al samŗ	ple		
	U	R	F	CG	\mathbf{V}	CA		\mathbf{U}	R	F	CG	\mathbf{V}	СА
SP1	.042	.062*	.039	.046	.067*	.034	SP1	.010	038	.009	.031	.015	.016
SP2	.036	027	025	.006	.002	.018	SP2	.040	.033	.018	.034	.035	.054
SP3	021	017	045	019	042	029	SP3	009	001	030	.027	076*	006
SP4	010	013	.032	.026	020	004	SP4	020	028	007	034	033	050*
SP5	102**	123***	115***	121***	162***	116***	SP5	.026	027	025	.017	.018	.074*
SI1	.004	186	151	.025	182	107	SI1	054	024	046	094**	044	095***
SI2	.205	.015	235*	.024	.021	.029	SI2	.008	.008	.009	.017	.050	003
SI3	011	.168	124	.048	011	.141	SI3	.105***	.051	.079**	.088**	.090**	.081**
SI4	.037	.191	033	071	141	115	SI4	058	035	046	018	.016	.011
SI5	.099	060	351***	.043	222*	.114	SI5	010	017	014	.053	020	.001
CP1	.122	144	068	183	156	.242*	CP1	062**	053*	040	007	017	021
CP2	018	.070	.107	037	.123	.010	CP2	.002	.078*	.069*	.031	.008	.054
CP3	.142	061	157	117	103	.145	CP3	086**	063*	096***	116***	071*	138***
CP4	052	.150	.079	.143	.212*	205	CP4	.004	.038	.024	011	075**	.002
CP5	.136	284*	092	150	.083	.226	CP5	026	022	.015	.026	.022	011
CI1	038	103	163	088	165	.283*	CI1	026	.006	017	.016	.063*	.016
CI2	029	.028	024	159	.102	.154	CI2	.006	002	.010	.001	021	034
CI3	209*	.074	.243*	013	.069	090	CI3	.009	.026	.009	.028	.034	029
CI4	.083	022	090	.156	012	117	CI4	.004	041	026	008	098***	059*
CI5	.040	.065	073	028	309**	.143	CI5	.023	.026	.002	009	.008	.013

The second (right) group had many more males than the student sample and was double the average age of the student sample. Highlighting age and sex differences.

Trolley Footbridge (SP5)

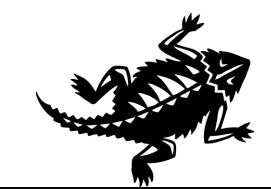
- A runaway trolley is heading down the tracks toward five workmen who will be killed if the trolley proceeds on its present course. You are on a footbridge over the tracks, in between the approaching trolley and the five workmen. Next to you on this footbridge is a stranger who happens to be very large.
- The only way to save the lives of the five workmen is to push this stranger off the bridge and onto the tracks below where his large body will stop the trolley. The stranger will die if you do this, but the five workmen will be saved.

Would you push the stranger on to the tracks in order to save the five workmen?

Definitely Not Shein (CP3)

Recently, a new company has been gaining a lot of attention for selling high-quality products at incredibly low prices. After some news organizations investigated how this was possible, they discovered that the company relies heavily on cheap labor in foreign countries with questionable laws about working age and conditions. Buying those same products from companies that follow more ethical labor standards means paying anywhere between three to five times more than if purchased from the cheaper company. Critics of the company argue that the financial savings are not worth the human cost, while supporters contend it's hypocritical to single out this company when many popular products sold elsewhere are made under similar conditions.





Is it okay to purchase from this company as long as it saves you money?