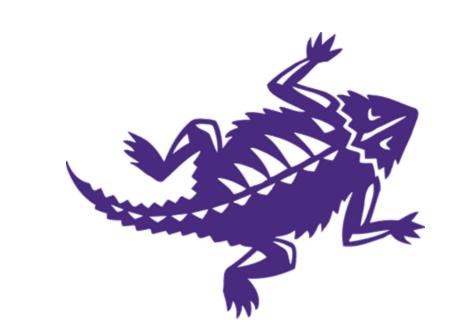


Ethical Perspectives in Moral Decision-Making: A Cross-Sample Comparison



Ochranek, A., Stuart H., Hayes, P., Komar, W., Lovett, A.

How do different ethical perspectives shape moral decision-making?



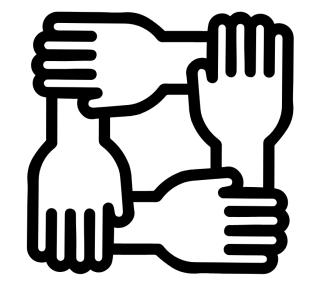
Utilitarianism



Virtue



Care



Rights-Based



Justice/ Fairness



Common Good

6 Ethical Perspectives that **Shape Moral Decision-**Making

Utilitarianism:

Maximizing happiness and minimizing overall harm, decisions are governed by fear of consequences.

Prioritizes character and

outcomes or rules.

situationally.

and freedoms,

application varies

Rights-Based:

Justice/Fairness: Centers fairness, moral virtues rather than impartiality, and equality as key decision-

Values individual rights

Care:

Virtue:

Relationships, empathy, and others' well-being are prioritized, specifically in personal dilemmas.

making factors, often applied in rule-based dilemmas.

Common Good:

Emphasizes moral duty and principles when making decisions, consequences are not a key priority.

Virtue Ethics Results From Study 1 Results From Study 2

20 Dilemmas Were **Characterized Into**

Sacrificial-Personal: Direct harm,

immediate involvement

•Ex: physically putting someone in harm's way to save five others

Contemporary-**Personal:** Modern ethical issues

Ex: deciding to report a friend for cheating on an exam

with personal stakes

Sacrificial-Impersonal: Contemporary-

Indirect harm, logical reasoning applies •Ex: diverting a train via switch to harm one person, but saving five others

Impersonal:

Modern ethical issues with no personal stakes

•Ex: supporting universal healthcare policies or environmental regulations

Graph Results

Graphs focusing on V data

- Graph 1 shows V data negatively predicting CP_4
- Graphs 2 and 3 are a comparison of Virtue ethics between studies
- Graph 4 shows V data positively predicting CI_1

Virtue reasoning is more context dependent in the general population (Study 2)

Key Takeaways Moral Dilemma Types Sacrificial Contemporary-Personal **Impersonal** Personal **Impersonal Ethical Perspectives** Sample Group

Rights-

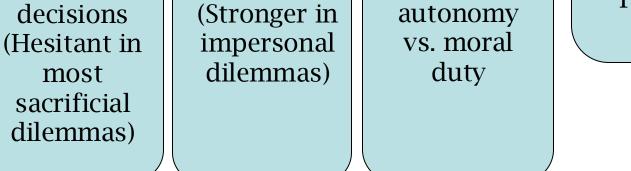
Based

Ethics:

Inconsistent

influence,

balancing



Applied

& Justice:

Logic-driven,

focused

decisions

consequence

Influence College General Students: Population More flexible contextstructured dependent rule-based reasoning ethical choices

Final Outcome Trends

Personal dilemmas: Emotion-driven, less predictable choices

Virtue &

Care Ethics:

Emotion

relationship

-focused

decisions

most

(Hesitant i

Impersonal dilemmas: Rule-based, consistent ethical reasoning

Utilitarian & Justice-based ethics dominate when personal factors are removed

Summary

Ethical decision-making depends on both the ethical lens used and the nature of the dilemma.

- People apply Justice, Common Good, and Utilitarian principles more consistently in Impersonal dilemmas.
- College students exhibit more variability, suggesting greater moral flexibility or cognitive engagement.
- Virtue and Rights-based ethics show shifts in importance across samples, highlighting a need for more research on populationlevel differences.