Our Righteous Minds
Part 2
Vanderbilt Osher Life Long Learning Institute
Fall, 2018

Online Resources
Moralfoundations.org
YourMorals.org
CivilPolitics.org
Righteousmind.com
Jonathan Haidt You Tube channel
Haidt’s Intellectual Journey...

From a view of Moral Psychology as being primarily
• Rational
• Individualistic
• And based only on Justice and Care...

...To an understanding of morality as
• Intuitive and emotional
• Highly influenced by social constructs
• And multidimensional
FIRST SHIFT
Rational → Intuitive & Emotional
(acknowledges limits of our capacity for reason and the complex nature of cognitive processes)

SECOND SHIFT
Individualistic → Social context and constructs
(integrating anthropology and evolutionary psychology)
We are WEIRDer than we think

Western
Educated
Industrial
Rich
Democratic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“WEIRD” cultures</th>
<th>Non-“WEIRD” cultures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Individualistic</td>
<td>• Socio-centric</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Rights focused</td>
<td>• Relationship focused</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Self-expression</td>
<td>• Self-control</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ethic of autonomy</td>
<td>• Ethic of community</td>
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<td>• Ethic of divinity</td>
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Haidt’s Social Intuitionist Model

Figure 2. The social intuitionist model of moral judgment. The numbered links, drawn for Person A only, are (1) the intuitive judgment link, (2) the post hoc reasoning link, (3) the reasoned persuasion link, and (4) the social persuasion link. Two additional links are hypothesized to occur less frequently: (5) the reasoned judgment link and (6) the private reflection link.

Evolutionary Psychology

Blank Slate (nurture) Hard-wired (nature)

Moral Foundations Theory