Our Righteous Minds

Part 3

Vanderbilt Osher Life Long Learning Institute
Fall, 2018

MORALITY IS...

FIRST SHIFT
Rational \(\rightarrow\) Intuitive & Emotional

SECOND SHIFT
Individualistic \(\rightarrow\) Social context and constructs
THIRD SHIFT
Focused on Multi-dimensional Care & Justice (Moral Foundations Theory)

EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY

ADAPTIVE CHALLENGE (TRIGGER) → PERCEPTION

NEGATIVE RESPONSE
POSITIVE RESPONSE
OFFSPRING
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evolutionary Psychology Theory</th>
<th>Understanding Personal Palate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Common Evolutionary Trait (physiology/behavior)</td>
<td>• Tongue (taste buds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Specific Cultural Expressions (influences)</td>
<td>• Cuisine</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Individual Socialization</td>
<td>• Personal tastes</td>
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<th>Evolutionary Psychology Theory</th>
<th>Haidt’s Hypothesis</th>
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<td>• Common Evolutionary Trait (physiology/behavior)</td>
<td>• Neural Moral Modules</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Specific Cultural Expressions (influences)</td>
<td>• Group Moral Code</td>
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<td>• Individual Socialization</td>
<td>• Personal Ethics</td>
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Haidt’s Methodology

1. Compile list of virtues from cultures all over the world

2. Identify which virtues appear in virtually all of those cultures
   i.e. kindness, fairness, loyalty

3. Link VIRTUES with established evolutionary psychology theory

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**EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY**

Social Interactions

- **ADAPTIVE CHALLENGE (TRIGGER)**
- **PERCEPTION**
  - **NEGATIVE RESPONSE**
  - **POSITIVE RESPONSE**
  - **OFFSPRING**
Moral Foundations Theory

1. Care/Harm

Protect and Care for Children

Suffering, distress, or neediness expressed by one’s child

Baby seals, cute cartoon characters

vulnerable people

Compassion

Caring, Kindness
2. Fairness/Cheating

Reap benefits of 2-way partnerships
Cheating, Cooperation, Deception
Marital Fidelity, broken vending machines
Anger, Gratitude, Guilt
Fairness, Trustworthiness
Justice
Moral Foundations Theory

3. Loyalty/Betrayal

Form cohesive coalitions

Threat or challenge to group

Nation-states, sports teams

Group pride, rage at traitors

Loyalty, Patriotism, Self-sacrifice

Adaptive Challenge

Original Triggers

Current Triggers

Characteristic Emotions

Relevant Virtues

REPUBLICANS
WORKING LIKE CRAZY, TO SUPPORT THE LAZY.
Moral Foundations Theory

4. Authority/Subversion
- Forge beneficial relationships within hierarchies
- Signs of dominance and submission
- Bosses, respected professionals
- Respect, Fear
- Obedience, Deference

5. Sanctity/Degradation
- Avoid contaminants
- Waste products, diseased people
- Taboo ideas (e.g. communism, racism)
- Disgust
- Temperance, chastity, piety, cleanliness
6. Liberty/Oppression
Live in groups yet prevent Bullies from dominating Efforts of Alpha Male (or Female) to dominate Bullies, Tyrants, abuse of power
Righteous Anger
Love of Liberty