

McAdams (2015)

Chapter 7 *How Values Shape Agency: Morality, Religion, and Politics*

Humans are social actors, and, therefore, moral actors since all social groups require norms for moral conduct (or else the society will fall apart, p. 232).

The development of a sense of moral agency takes time

- Babies by 6 months show some primitive sense of moral intuition as “moral patients” who are beneficiaries or victims of the behavior of others (p. 233)
- By 4 years of age, young children have developed a Theory of Mind (ToM) realizing that others have desires and goals.
- As we grow up, we become sensitive to imagined otherworldly agents, e.g., God, saints, devils, and deceased ancestors.
- In elementary school we begin to have a more sophisticated, effortful and future-oriented set of goals for the future (desires, thoughts, plans of both ourselves and others)
- By adolescence, we become more fully moral agents as we attempt to cope with increasingly complex social worlds. In doing so we embrace a wide range of personal values as well as personal goals that influence how we make decisions and interact with others. The emergence of these goals and values sets the stage for the development of an emerging narrative identity.

Moral Foundations Theory (MFT; Curry, 2019; Graham et al, 2011; Haidt, 2012)

Graham, Nosek et al., 2011

Appendix

Moral Foundations Questionnaire (MFQ)

Part I: Moral Relevance (responded to using the following response options: *not at all relevant, not very relevant, slightly relevant, somewhat relevant, very relevant, extremely relevant*)

Harm:

- EMOTIONALLY—Whether or not someone suffered emotionally*
- WEAK—Whether or not someone cared for someone weak or vulnerable*
- CRUEL—Whether or not someone was cruel

Fairness:

- TREATED—Whether or not some people were treated differently from others*
- UNFAIRLY—Whether or not someone acted unfairly*
- RIGHTS—Whether or not someone was denied his or her rights

Ingroup:

- LOVECOUNTRY—Whether or not someone's action showed love for his or her country*
- BETRAY—Whether or not someone did something to betray his or her group*
- LOYALTY—Whether or not someone showed a lack of loyalty

Authority:

- RESPECT—Whether or not someone showed a lack of respect for authority*
- TRADITIONS—Whether or not someone conformed to the traditions of society*
- CHAOS—Whether or not an action caused chaos or disorder

Purity:

- DECENCY—Whether or not someone violated standards of purity and decency*
 - DISGUSTING—Whether or not someone did something disgusting*
 - GOD—Whether or not someone acted in a way that God would approve of
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Part II: Moral Judgments (responded to using the following response options: *strongly disagree, moderately disagree, slightly disagree, slightly agree, moderately agree, strongly agree*)

Harm:

- COMPASSION—Compassion for those who are suffering is the most crucial virtue.*
- ANIMAL—One of the worst things a person could do is hurt a defenseless animal.*
- KILL—It can never be right to kill a human being.

Fairness:

- FAIRLY—When the government makes laws, the number one principle should be ensuring that everyone is treated fairly.*
- JUSTICE—Justice is the most important requirement for a society.*
- RICH—I think it's morally wrong that rich children inherit a lot of money while poor children inherit nothing.

Ingroup:

- HISTORY—I am proud of my country's history.*
- FAMILY—People should be loyal to their family members, even when they have done something wrong.*
- TEAM—It is more important to be a team player than to express oneself.

Authority:

- KIDRESPECT—Respect for authority is something all children need to learn.*
- SEXROLES—Men and women each have different roles to play in society.*
- SOLDIER—If I were a soldier and disagreed with my commanding officer's orders, I would obey anyway because that is my duty.

Purity:

- HARMLESSDG—People should not do things that are disgusting, even if no one is harmed.*
 - UNNATURAL—I would call some acts wrong on the grounds that they are unnatural.*
 - CHASTITY—Chastity is an important and valuable virtue.
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Note. An asterisk indicates that the item is also included in the 20-item short-form MFQ.

TABLE 7.1. Five Moral Foundations

Foundation	Description	Common expressions
Care/harm	Reacting negatively to harm of other sentient beings; knowing that inflicting pain is wrong; desiring to care for others, especially when they are in need; valuing love, nurturance, kindness, mercy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thou shalt not kill. • Do no harm (Hippocratic oath). • Love thy neighbor as thyself. • <i>Ahimsa</i> (Hindu: do not injure). • Be nice.
Fairness/cheating	Reacting negatively to inequity or breaches in fairness; expecting reciprocity in relationships; sharing and working for the common good; valuing justice, equality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do unto others as you would have them do unto you (Golden Rule). • Cheaters never prosper. • An eye for an eye; tit for tat. • The social contract. • Play fair.
Loyalty/betrayal	Reacting negatively to failures in commitment, breaking promises, or undermining trust; staying true to the ideals of the group, pledging oneself to the well-being of the group; valuing commitment, fidelity, martyrdom.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Until death do us part. • I pledge allegiance to. . . • “I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country” (Nathan Hale, American martyr). • Stand by me.
Authority/subversion	Reacting negatively to disrespect of legitimate authority and efforts to subvert the established order; showing respect, deference, or obedience to authority; valuing order, hierarchy, the rule of law, and other authorities or authoritative institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thou shalt have no other gods before me. • Honor thy father and thy mother. • Filial piety. • Law and order. • Obey the rules.
Sanctity/degradation [Purity]	Reacting negatively (often with disgust) to violations of purity or sacredness; being sensitive to pollution or corruption from foreign elements; valuing purity, chastity, temperance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. • Cleanliness is next to Godliness. • Purification rites. • Be holy.

Note. Based on Haidt (2012).

McAdams, 2015, p. 210

References

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