

Analysis on AITA and Ethics.

1. Combined Influence of Religiousness and Personal Political View towards Moral Absolutism

Is there a relationship between the level of one's religious conviction and their political view with the tendency to interpret ethical situations in black and white ('jerk' vs. 'not a jerk') as opposed to grey interpretations ('mildly a jerk')?

Answer:

This question piqued my interest because it explores the relationship between political convictions, religious conviction, and moral absolutism, and how these factors influence moral judgement. I investigated it by giving qualitative responses to ethical scenarios a numerical score. I tallied the total number of responses that each participant believed to be true, such as "Jerk" or "Not a jerk." This made it possible for me to ascertain whether or not people tend to view ethical situations as black and white or as shades of grey. After grouping these scores, I looked at them in terms of political and religious beliefs.

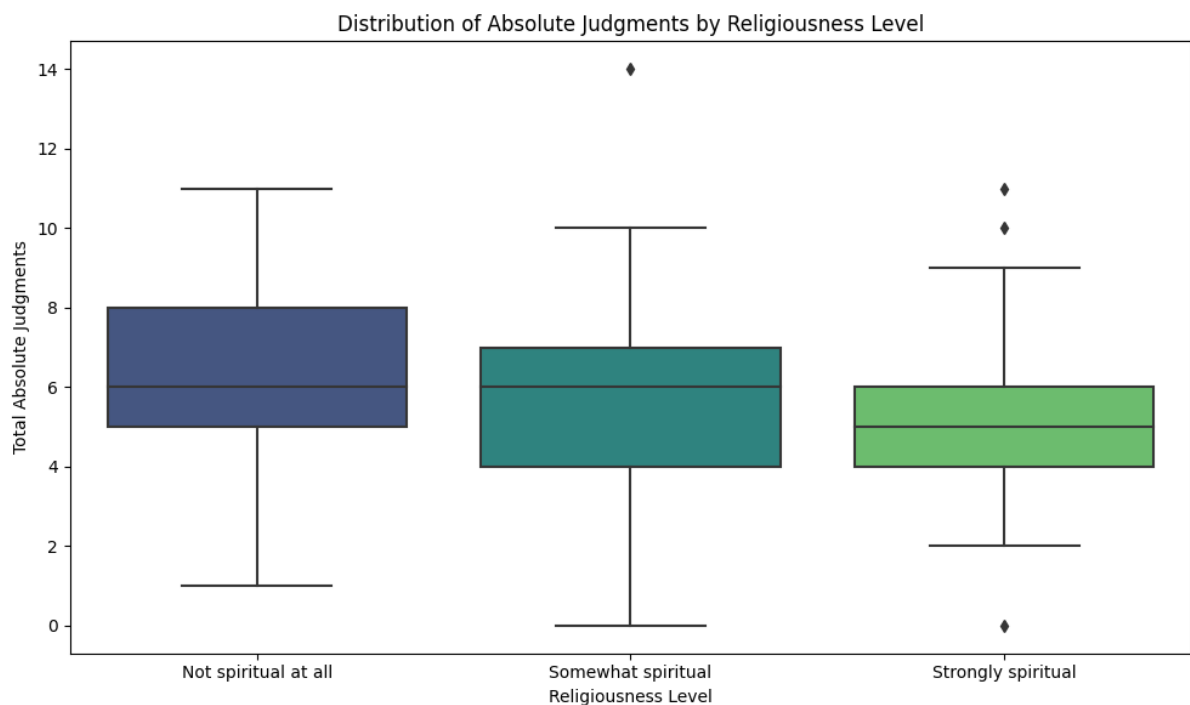
I used the one-way ANOVA test to see if political and religious beliefs had a significant impact on these assessments. For Religiousness, there's a statistically significant difference in the mean number of absolute judgments among the different religiousness levels (p -value: 0.0433). On the other hand, for Political View, there isn't a statistically significant difference in the mean number of absolute judgments among the different political views (p -value: 0.9963).

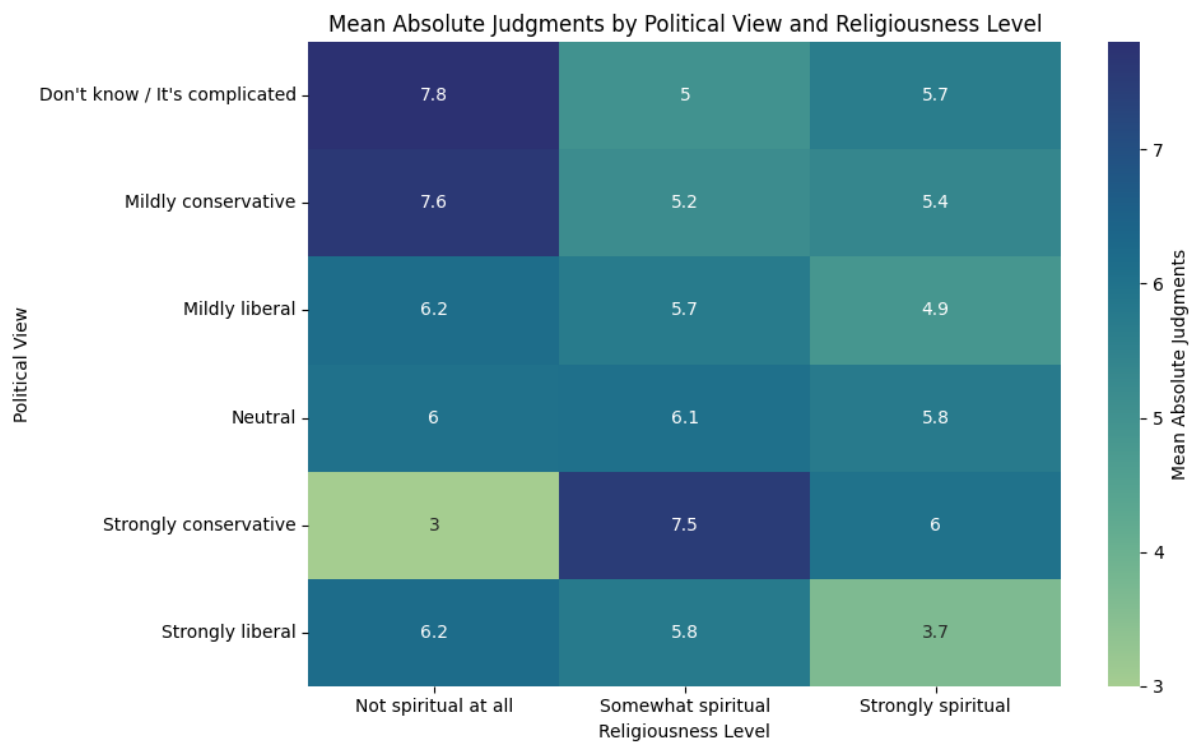
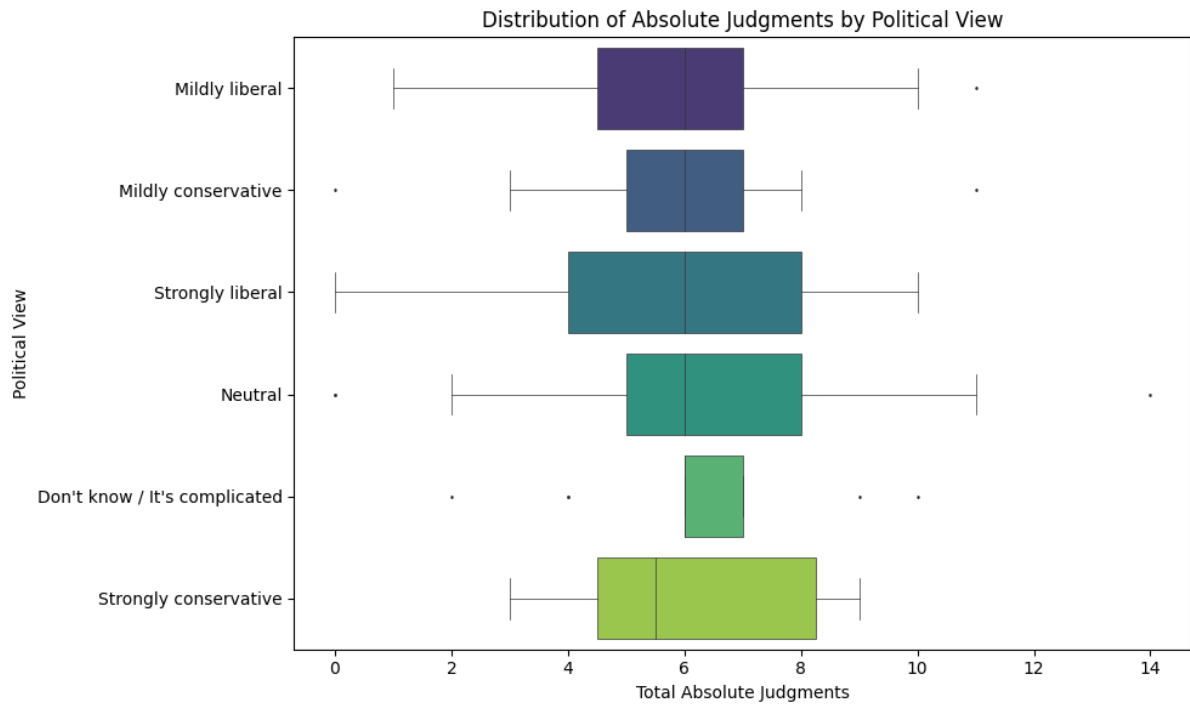
From our visualizations, we can see that in the *Distribution of Absolute Judgement by Religiousness* boxplot, those "Not spiritual at all" exhibit a tilt towards absolute judgments. "Strongly spiritual" individuals display the least variability, with a median centered around balanced judgments. Next, The *Distribution of Absolute Judgement by Political View* boxplot reveals conservatives, both mild and strong, as having more consistent judgments than their liberal counterparts. The "Strongly conservative" group slightly leans towards more absolute judgments. The heatmap, *Mean Absolute*

Judgments by Political View and Religiousness Level, highlights the intricate relationship between political and religious views in moral absolutism. Darker shades, signifying higher absolute judgments, are prevalent among conservatives. Liberals, regardless of spirituality, lean towards relative judgments. Notably, the non-spiritual yet strongly conservative group contradicts this trend with a lower mean.

Our heatmap analysis indicates a correlation between increased religious conviction and higher tendencies towards moral absolutism. This might stem from the definitive ethical guidelines often found in religious teachings. Conversely, political views don't show a clear link with moral absolutism, possibly due to their multifaceted nature.

Visualizations:







Total Absolute Judgments quantifies a respondent's tendency to interpret ethical scenarios in clear-cut terms, either as "Jerk" or "Not a jerk", versus more nuanced views like "Mildly a jerk". Higher counts indicate a stronger inclination towards black-and-white ethical perspectives.

Mean Absolute Judgments represents the average count of scenarios a respondent interprets in definitive terms. A higher average suggests a consistent tendency to see situations in black and white, rather than in shades of grey.

2. Influence of Parent's Political Perspectives towards Personal Ethical Judgement

How much influence do parental political views have on a student's ethical judgments? Is there evidence suggesting intergenerational transmission of ethical perspectives?

Answer:

The idea of ethical value transmission across generations forms the core of this investigation. It would be extremely clear how ethical viewpoints could be passed down through the generations if our ethical judgements were impacted by our parents' political views, which are frequently indicative of deeply held beliefs.

I initially examined majority responses to ethical scenarios based on parental political views to gauge potential influences. To validate these observations, I employed the Chi-square test, assessing the association between parental political beliefs and ethical judgments for each scenario.

For clarity, the hypotheses for each scenario were as follows:

- **Null Hypothesis (H_o):** There's no association between parental political views and ethical judgments.
- **Alternative Hypothesis (H_a):** There's a significant association between parental political views and ethical judgments.

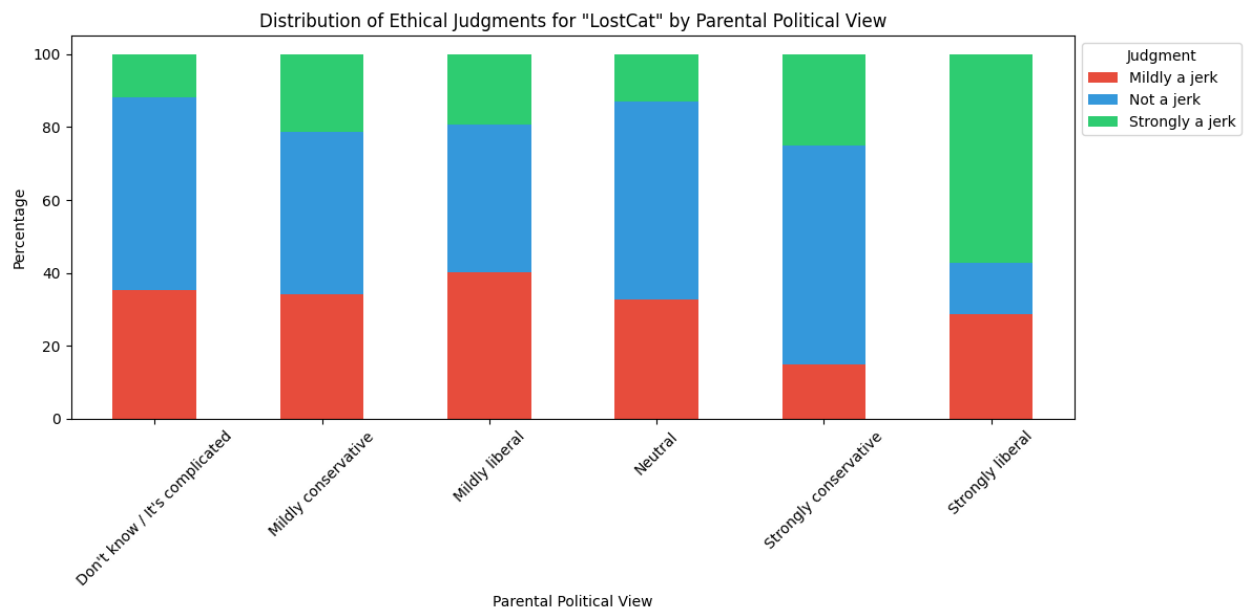
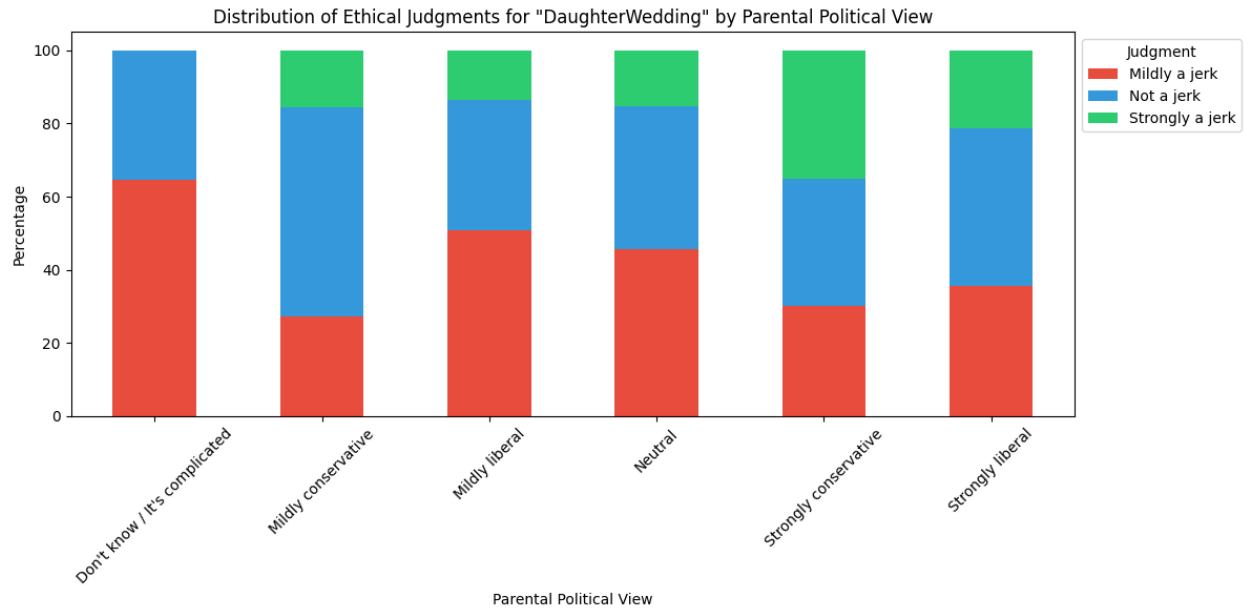
While a majority of the scenarios did not reject the null hypothesis, three scenarios: "DaughterWedding", "LostCat", and "WeddingDonation", exhibited p-values below the conventional 0.05 threshold. For these scenarios, we reject the null hypothesis, suggesting a statistically significant association between parental political views and ethical judgments.

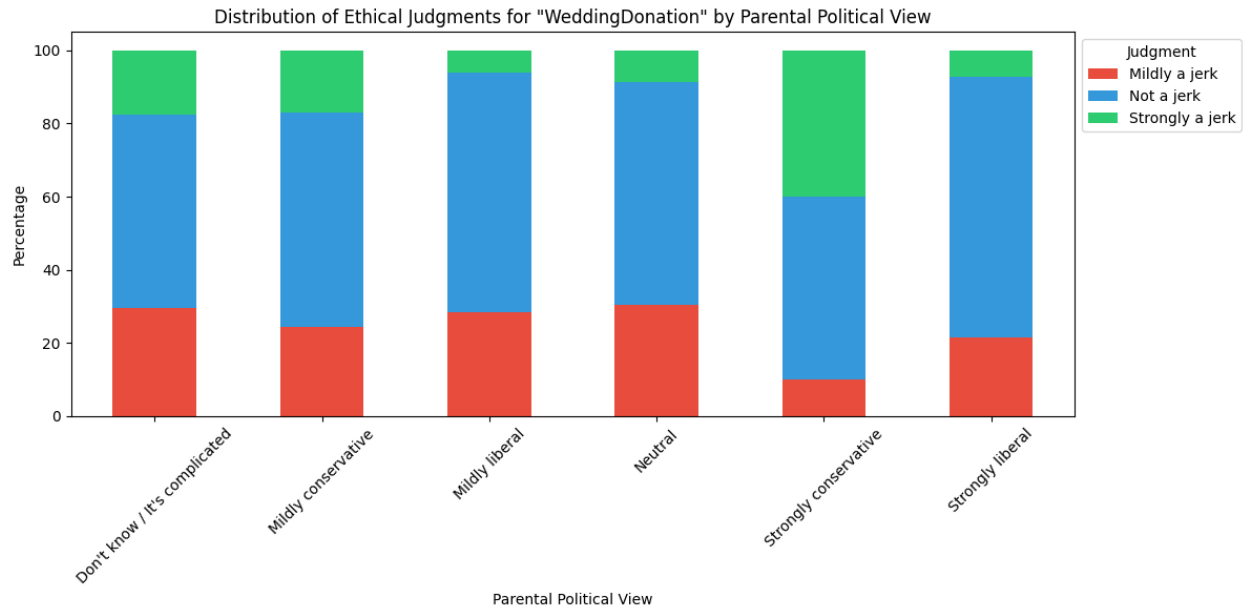
For the "DaughterWedding" scenario, respondents uncertain of their parents' political inclinations predominantly view the situation with moderate disapproval, while those with mildly conservative parents lean towards understanding. Interestingly, the "Strongly conservative" group showcases a clear polarization in both this and the "LostCat" scenario, indicating starkly varied interpretations possibly stemming from the extremities of their political beliefs.

In the "WeddingDonation" scenario, there's a general consensus across groups that the action isn't ethically contentious. However, the "Strongly conservative" group deviates noticeably, possibly influenced by deeper political or ethical convictions, especially given the scenario's LGBTQ context.

Conclusively, while not universally evident across all ethical scenarios, there's compelling evidence in specific contexts that parental political orientations can shape their children's ethical judgments. This hints at the tangible intergenerational transmission of ethical perspectives, influenced by the political tapestry of the family environment.

Visualizations:





3. Relationship between Academic Exposure and Age with Ethical Maturity

Do students' approaches to ethical dilemmas become more nuanced as they get older and more academically advanced, indicating that their ethical maturity grows with age and academic progression?

Answer:

I was interested in this question because it can shed light on how experience and education affect moral judgement by examining the correlation between age, academic achievement, and ethical maturity. I looked into it by taking the average of the qualitative answers to ethical scenarios and turning them into numerical scores. This allowed me to calculate the ethical maturity score for each student. After that, I divided and examined these average scores according to age and academic standing. Using ANOVA test, I found that there isn't a statistically significant difference in the mean ethical maturity score across different academic levels (p -value: 0.145) or across different age groups (p -value: 0.373).

The presented line plot offers a detailed perspective of ethical maturity scores at various academic levels, with the impact of age and academic advancement being highlighted. The ethical maturity of sophomores declines, whereas juniors show a discernible peak in scores at approximately age 22. Seniors exhibit a more heterogeneous pattern, with fluctuations in their scores; interestingly, younger people in the Senior group typically have higher scores. This may indicate that there is a subgroup of highly intelligent students who have a higher level of ethical maturity.

The information does not show a clear trend indicating that students' ethical development always increases with age or level of education. Rather, the designs are more detailed. While certain academic phases or age ranges show increased ethical maturity, other areas show divergent declines. This oscillation raises the possibility that factors other than age or educational attainment may also influence the dynamics of moral decision-making. Crucial roles may be played by elements including individual life experiences, familial upbringing, cultural influences, and innate personality traits. Furthermore, the results of our statistical analyses support this observation even more. They show that age and academic achievement, taken separately, have little effect on the differences in ethical maturity scores.

Visualization:



