

# Moral Pluralism Post-Lab

Dessa  
Shapiro  
PHIL.102.02  
2/6/24

**Intuition** - the mind's survey of its own ideas, and the relations between them... It is to this we owe our beliefs of self-evident truths.

Ex) US declaration of independence "all men are created equal."

- this was written by a slave owner and was hypocritical

- the idea that humans were "created" also has issues

## Self-evident claims

① Not derived from other claims

If P, then Q } not self-evident

P } this is a fallacy \*

therefore Q } why we think some claims are self-evident

Animal Farm: "some animals are more equal than others"

- this is the opposite of a self-evident claim (equal vs. more)

② Not perceived as false by those who really understand them

↓ should be true

P<sub>1</sub> holds } why does P<sub>1</sub> hold?

by P<sub>2</sub> } why does P<sub>2</sub> hold?

by P<sub>3</sub> } why does P<sub>3</sub> hold?

by P<sub>4</sub> } ... ↓

Self-evident claims seem to be needed to avoid an infinite regress

of justification. (think of an endless stream of whys)

"All reasoning must be grounded on first principles... without we can not establish moral conclusions" - Thomas Reid

**Sentimentalists** - our ideas of morality are derived from experience, rightness and wrongness are emotional responses we have to what's "out there"

**Intuitionist response** - we should not confuse recognition of a truth with our emotional response to it.

Pt II

A conditional duty is also one's actual duty (no overriding duty)

hospital ethics:

why is ross's idea not widely supported?

Non  
Maleficence  
Beneficence - Autonomy  
Justice

- No explanation why some items are on the list but not others, it leaves no room for rational debate of what should be included

Ross says duties are built on relationships

- that makes the duties appear transactional "you give me this so I give you that"

ex) there is no parent to child

- without a feminist perspective add a duty of care (improve relationships)

morality will be lacking. →



what are the two conclusions drawn from Ross's conclusions? which is more accurate and immune to counter example

An act is morally right iff it is a prima facie duty and no alternative is a higher rank prima facie duty

- doesn't work since the relative importance of a duty can flip given the circumstance

ex) meeting friend vs a talk, friend be of homework vs friend be donated organ

- and no alternative is a more stringent prima facie duty (context dependent)

Virtue ethics - emphasises character traits that promote human flourishing such as courage, temperance and generosity

what is the technical manual model?

Technical Manual Model: ethical theory will apply to everyone the same way by telling people what to do - Julia Annas

Pluralistic accounts of ethics reflect complexity unlike utilitarianism.

Ex) trading 2 \$15 gift cards for \$30 cash, he offered \$25 and son accepted, both got what they wanted. Thought about his own experiences with trading and gave son \$5. under a non-pluralistic theory this is unexplicable

Summary:

Intuition is what we hold as truth and leads to self-evident claims which stem from two main ideas. Self-evident claims are based on moral principle. Sentimentalists and intuitionists have opposing ideas about what defines truth, emotional vs. logical processes. Prima Facie duties are based on relationships but these relationships don't consider overlooked groups such as women. Ross's theory is pluralistic in nature, with no one clear view of philosophy.