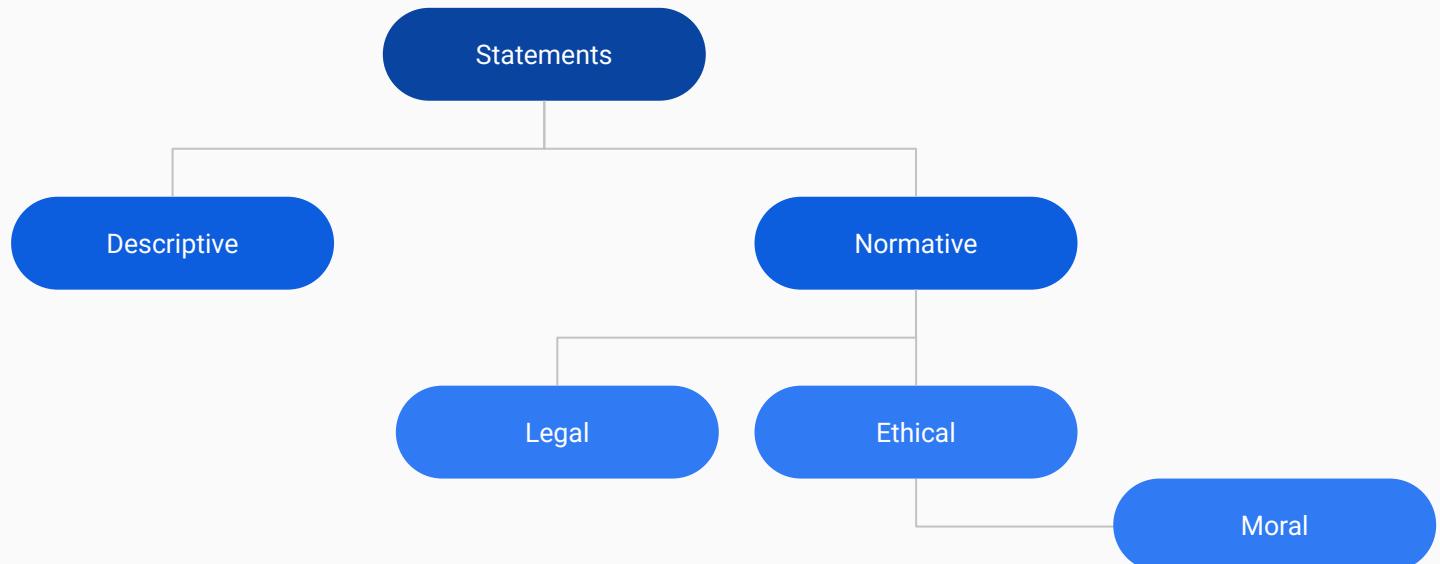


# Ethical Questions and Ethical Reasoning

Benjamín Muñoz

# Ethical Questions Worksheet



# Ethical Questions Worksheet

1. Twitter should/shouldn't regulate speech on its platform
2. Self-driving cars are more/less likely to get in accidents than human drivers
3. It's fair/unfair for this algorithm to make predictions in this way
4. Consumers are/aren't responsible for reading and understanding privacy policies before they consent to use a service
5. Boycotts are an effective/ineffective way to generate change

# Do Ethical Questions Have Answers?

1. Ethical Objectivity
  2. Ethical Subjectivity
- 
- **What do you think about the debate on ethical objectivism and subjectivism?**

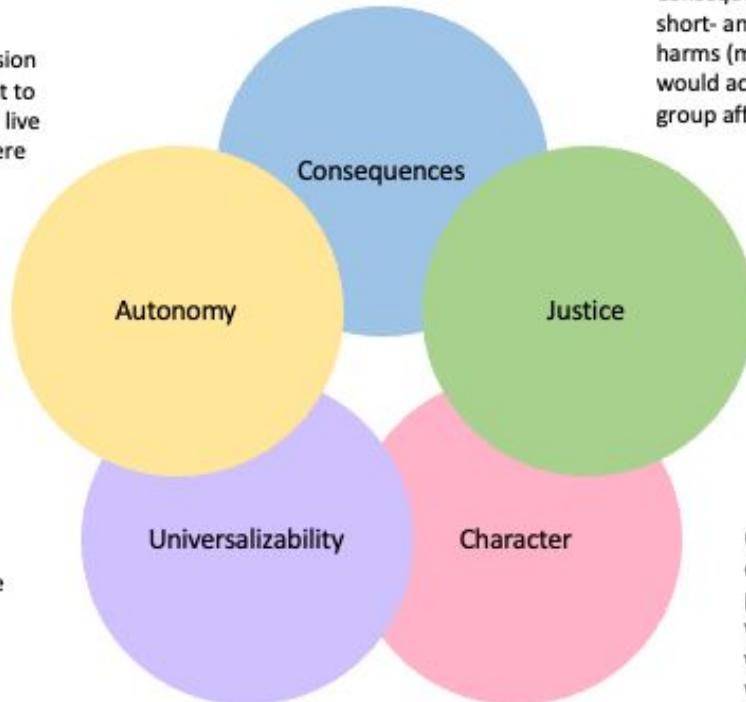
# Asking Ethical Questions

Each student proposes an ethical question with a brief context. The rest discuss whether it is necessary or useful to adjust it (narrow/broaden/etc.) or think about related questions.

# Ethical Lenses

*Autonomy:* Would this decision interfere with anyone's right to make choices about how to live their own lives, at least where those choices don't unduly burden others?

*Universalizability:* What would happen if everyone made this decision in these circumstances? Could I still do what I wanted to? How would I feel if someone else made this decision, and it affected me?



*Consequences:* What are the expected short- and long-term benefits and harms (magnitude\*likelihood) that would accrue to each individual or group affected by the decision?

*Justice:* Are all individuals or groups treated fairly by the decision? Would this decision reinforce or create any structural injustices?

*Character:* What does this decision say about me as a person? Does it align with my values? Think of someone virtuous whom you admire – would they make this decision?

# Example 1: Cheating on a Exam

Let's apply ethical lenses to the case of a student who is evaluating whether to cheat on a final exam.

If you think it is necessary to add scope conditions to apply the lenses, indicate which ones.

# Lenses and Moral Philosophy

## MORAL PHILOSOPHY/ETHICS:

The study of human actions that affect beings capable of being harmed in some way (definitely humans, as well as many animal species) and the principles that people appeal to when they act.

### METAETHICS:

- nature of moral knowledge
- proper grounds for justifying moral claims
- metaphysical/ontological status of moral norms and entities

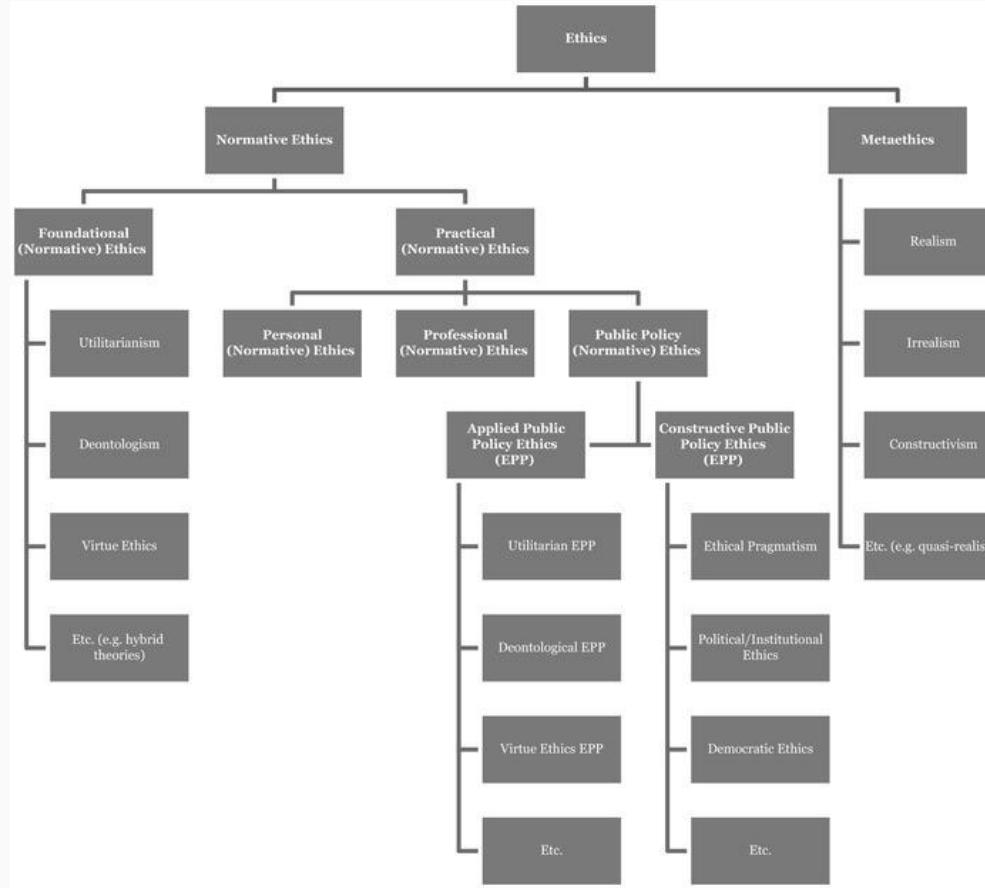
### NORMATIVE ETHICS:

- what constitutes the “good life?”
- what should I do, and who should I be?
- development, analysis, and critique of various moral/ethical theories

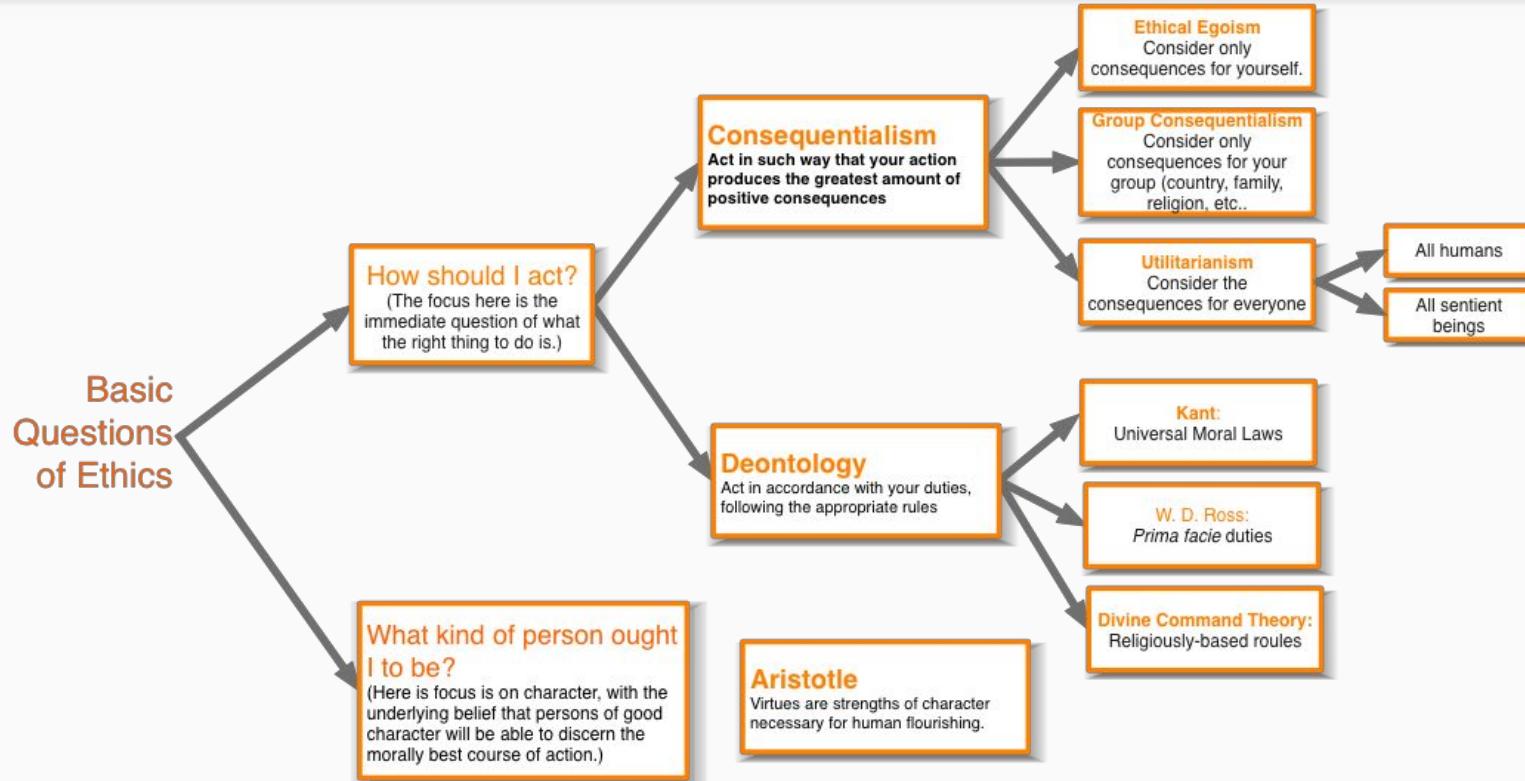
### APPLIED ETHICS:

- realm of professions, institutions and public policy
- generates practical moral answers
- applies moral/ethical theories to practice

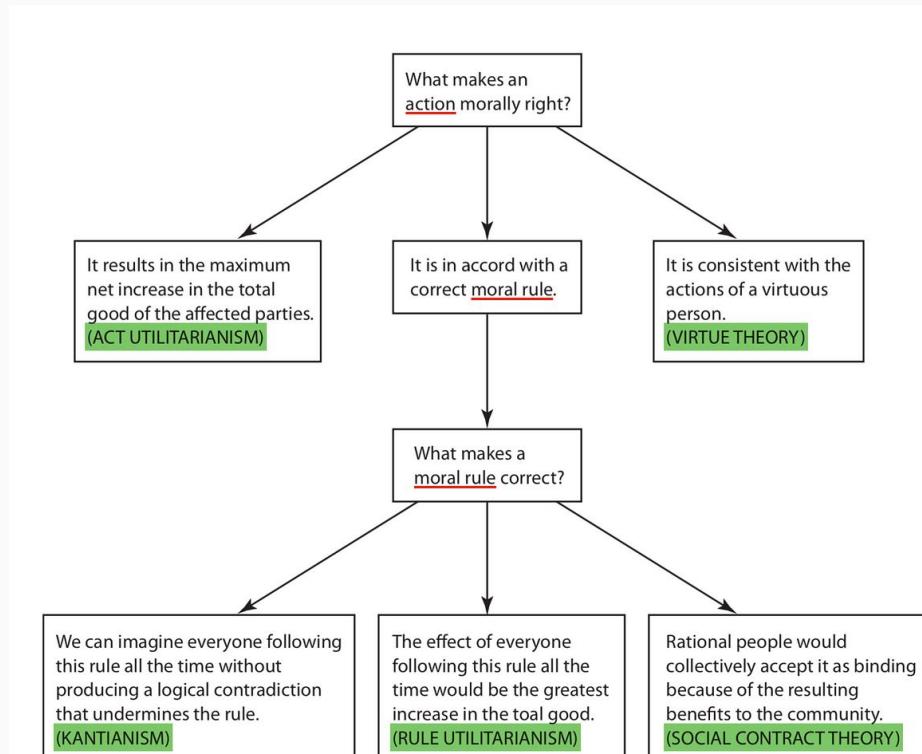
# Lenses and Moral Philosophy



# Lenses and Moral Philosophy



# Lenses and Moral Philosophy



**FIGURE 2.10** Comparison of the five workable ethical theories. All of these theories explicitly take people other than the decision maker into consideration, assume that moral good and moral precepts are objective, and rely upon reasoning from facts and commonly held values.

# Lenses and Moral Philosophy

## CONSEQUENTIAL THEORIES

(or Teleology)

EGOISM

WHAT IS IN  
**MY**  
best  
LONG TERM  
INTERESTS  
?

UTILITARIANISM

WHAT WILL BRING THE  
GREATEST OVERALL

**GOOD**  
for  
**ALL**

STAKEHOLDERS  
?

## NON-CONSEQUENTIAL THEORIES

(or Deontology)

KANT

WHAT IS MY  
**DUTY**  
to  
**OTHERS**  
considering



Universal Law

Goodwill

Means vs ends

## ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

(or Virtue theories)

ARISTOTLE'S  
VIRTUE THEORY

AM I BEING AN  
**EXEMPLARY**  
**PERSON**  
?

ETHIC OF CARE

AM I SHOWING  
**CARE**  
OR OTHERS IN MY  
COMMUNITY  
?

# The IRS Should Stop Using Facial Recognition

- What's the main ethical claim being argued for?
- How does the author argue for that claim?
- What empirical/descriptive claims does the author rely on? What normative claims does the author rely on?
- What kinds of considerations does the author appeal to?
- What kinds of considerations does the author miss?
- What are the weakest points of the author's reasoning or argument? If you had to push back, where would you push?