

## **Information Sheet**

#### Dear Participant,

You are invited to take part in a study investigating the process by which people make moral judgements. Specifically, we are investigating if previous findings on moral judgements can generalise to populations from countries in the Middle East and North Africa. This information sheet will tell you what the study is about, and the possible risk and benefits associated with it. If you agree to take part, we will ask you to complete a *Consent Form*, declaring that you consent to take part.

#### What is the study about?

This study aims to investigate the process by which people make moral judgements.

#### What will I have to do?

Your participation is entirely voluntary. If you initially decide to take part, you can subsequently change your mind and withdraw from the study at any time and without the need to give any reason or justify your decision.

If you agree to participate you will be asked a series of questions relating to moral judgements. You will be presented with four moral scenarios and you will be asked to rate the behaviour of the characters described in the scenario. You will then be asked to complete several standardised questionnaires. The entire study

#### **Consent Form**

Please be aware that some of the scenarios you are about to read may cause offence and /or distress. You are reminded that you have the right to withdraw your participation AT ANY TIME during the study without having to give a reason.

Should you agree to participate in this study please read the statements below and if you agree to them, please continue the survey

- I have read and understood the participant information sheet.
- I understand what the project is about, and what the results will be used for.
- I understand that what the researchers find out in this study may be shared with others but that my name will not be given to anyone in any written material developed.
- I am fully aware of what I will have to do, and of any risks and benefits of the study.
- I know that I am choosing to take part in the study and that I can stop taking part in the study at any stage without giving any reason to the researchers.
- My anonymised data will be stored indefinitely and may be made publicly available to other researchers in the field through the Open Science

Framework.

By agreeing to take part below I confirm that I am 18 years of age or older, I have read and understood this form and I consent to participate in the above named study.

Do you consent to take	part in the	study?
------------------------	-------------	--------

- O Yes
- O No

## **Demographics**

Please specify your age

What gender do you identify as
O Male
O Female
Other (Please Specify)
O Prefer not to answer
Please indicate your nationality/country of origin:
What is the highest degree or level of education you have completed?
O High School
O Bachelor's degree
O Master's degree
O PhD or Higher
Other (Please Specify)
O Prefer not to say

It applicable, please specify your relegion:
O Hinduism
O Islam
O Christianity
O Sikhism
O Buddhism
O Jainism
Other (Please Specify)
O Prefer not to say
Confirm Country
Please confirm that you are from a country in the Middle East or North Africa
O I am from a country in the Middle East

#### instructions

O I am from a country in North Africa

O I am not from either of these regions

In the next section you will be presented with certain moral scenarios and asked to rate the

behaviour of the characters described in the scenario. You will then be asked to complete several standardised questionnaires.

#### **Trolley**

A Trolley is hurling down a track towards five people. It will kill them all on impact. Paul is on a bridge under which it will pass. He can stop it by putting something very heavy in front of it. As it happens, there is a very fat man next to him - Paul's only way to stop the trolley is to push him over the bridge and onto the track, killing him to save five. Paul decides to push the man.

How right or wrong would you rate the actions of Paul?

1 Morally	2	3	4 Neutral	5	6	7 Morally
wrong	$\bigcirc$					Right

Please p	orovide (	a reasc	n for your (	answer		
How cor	nfident (	are you	about you	r judger	ment?	
1 Extremely	2	3	4 Neutral	5	6	7 Extremely
Dowbtful	0	0		0	0	confident
Do you did not	•		e people w	ould ha	ve diec	d if Paul
O No O Yes						
Do you	(still) th	ink it is	wrong?			
O Yes						

Do you have a reason for your judgement?
<ul><li>Yes I have a reason</li><li>No I do not have a reason</li><li>Unsure</li></ul>
And this man is the only way available to stop the trolley? (Paul does not weigh enough)  No Yes
Do you (still) think it is wrong?  O Yes  O No
Do you have a reason for your judgement?
<ul><li>Yes I have a reason</li><li>No I do not have a reason</li><li>Unsure</li></ul>

Unsure

Do you agree that in stopping the trolley Paul saved the lives of five people?
O Yes O No
Do you (still) think it is wrong?  O Yes  No
Do you have a reason for your judgement?
Yes I have a reason      No I do not have a reason

Pushing one man in front of the trolley saves the lives of five people, and there was no other option to save them otherwise, how can there be anything wrong with Paul's actions?

It is wrong		not think	of a reason a valid reason			
Please p	orovide y	our rec	ason below	1		
How righ	nt or wro	ng wol	uld you rate	e the ac	ctions o	f Paul?
1 Morally wrong	2	3	4 Neutral	5	6	7 Morally right
How cor	nfident a	re you	about you	r judger	ment?	
l Extremely doubtful	2	3	4 Neutral	5	6	7 Extremely Confident

How much	did you	change yo	our mind?
	,	<b>O</b> ,	

1 Not gt all

2

3

4

5

6

7 Extremely

## How confused were you?

1 Not gt all

2

3

4

5

6 7 Ex

7 Extremely

#### How irritated were you?

1 Not at all

2

3

5

Substantially7 Extremely

## How much was your judgement based on reason?

1 Not at all

2

3

4

5

6

7 Extremely

# How much was your judgement based on "gut-feeling"?

1 Not gt all

2

3

 $\bigcirc$ 

5

6

7 Extremely

#### **Promise**

A woman was dying, and on her deathbed she asked her son (James) to promise that he would visit her grave every week. The son loved his mother very much, so he promised to visit her grave every week. But after the mother died, the son didn't keep his promise, because he was very busy.

How right James?		ong wol	uld you rate	e the ac	ctions of	
1 Morally wrong	2	3	4 Neutral	5	6	7 Morally Right
Please p	orovide	a reaso	n for your (	answer		

How confident are you about your judgement?

1 Extremely	2	3	4 Neutral	5	6	7 Extremely
Doubtful						confident

Do you accept that James' might genuinely have not enough time to visit his mother's grave every week?
O No O Yes
Do you (still) think it is wrong?  O Yes  O No
Do you have a reason for your judgement?  O Yes I have a reason  No I do not have a reason  Unsure
Do you accept that nobody was harmed by James failing to visit his mother's grave?  O No O Yes

Do you (still) think it is wrong?
O Yes O No
Do you have a reason for your judgement?  O Yes I have a resaon
No i do not have a reason     Unsure
Do you agree that James should be free to deal with his grief in his own way?
O Yes O No
Do you (still) think it is wrong?  O Yes  O No

<ul> <li>Yes I have a reason</li> <li>No I do not have a reason</li> <li>Unsure</li> <li>James was only trying to get his own life back to normal after the passing of his mother.</li> <li>How can there be anything wrong with what he did?</li> <li>There is nothing wrong</li> <li>It is wrong but I can not think of a reason</li> <li>It is wrong and I can provide a valid reason</li> </ul>
normal after the passing of his mother.  How can there be anything wrong with what he did?  There is nothing wrong  It is wrong but I can not think of a reason
<ul><li>There is nothing wrong</li><li>It is wrong but I can not think of a reason</li></ul>
O It is wrong but I can not think of a reason
Please provide your reason below

How right or	wrong	would	you	rate	the	actions	of
James?							

1 Morally 2 3 4 Neutral 5 6 7 Morally wrong oright

## How confident are you about your judgement?

1 Extremely 2 3 4 Neutral 5 6 7 Extremely doubtful Confident

#### How much did you change your mind?

1 Not at all 2 3 5 5 Extremely

## How confused were you?

1 Not at all 2 3 4 5 6 7 Extremely

#### How irritated were you?

1 Not at all

2

3

4

5

6

7 Extremely

## How much was your judgement based on reason?

1 Not gt all

2

3

4

5

6

7 Extremely

How much was your judgement based on "gut-feeling"?

1 Not at all

2

3

4

5

6

7 Extremely

#### Heinz

In Europe, a woman was near death from a very bad disease, a special kind of cancer. There was one drug that doctors thought might save her. It was a form of radium for which a druggist was charging ten times what the drug cost him to make. The sick woman's husband, Heinz, went to everyone he knew to borrow the money, but he could only get together about half of what it costs. He told the druggist that his wife was dying and asked him to sell it cheaper or let him pay later. But the druggist said, "No, I discovered the drug and I'm going to make money from it." So, Heinz got desperate and broke into the man's store to steal the drug for his wife. The druggist had Heinz arrested and charged.

How right or wrong would you rate the actions of the druggist?

1 Morally	2	3	4 Neutral	5	6	7 Morally
wrong						Right

Please p	orovide c	reaso	n for your (	answer		
How cor	nfident o	ıre you	about you	r judger	ment?	
1 Extremely Doubtful	2	3	4 Neutral	5	6	7 Extremely confident
Do you o	agree th	at the (	druggist ho	as to mo	ake a liv	ving?
Do you  O yes  O No	(still) thi	nk it is	wrong?			

Do you have a reason for your judgement?
<ul><li>Yes I have a reason</li><li>No I do not have a reason</li><li>Unsure</li></ul>
And do you accept that Heinz broke into the druggist's store?
O No O Yes
Do you (still) think it is wrong?  O Yes  No
Do you have a reason for your judgement?
<ul><li>Yes I have a resaon</li><li>No i do not have a reason</li><li>Unsure</li></ul>

And do you accept that he stole from him?
O Yes
O No
Do you (still) think it is wrong?
O Yes
O No
Do you have a resaon for your judgement?
O Yes I have a reason
O No I do not have a reason
Ounsure

The druggist discovered the drug and had the right to sell it at the price he desired, Heinz broke into the store and stole the drug, how can there be anything wrong with what the druggist did?

It is wrong		not think	of a reason a valid reason			
Please p	orovide '	your red	ason below	/		
How righ		ong wo	uld you rate	e the ac	ctions of	f the
1 Morally wrong	2	3	4 Neutral	5	6	7 Morally right

How confident are yo	u about your	judgement?
----------------------	--------------	------------

1 Extremely 2 3 4 Neutral 5 6 7 Extremely doubtful

## How much did you change your mind?

1 Not at all & & 5 6 7 Extremely

#### How confused were you?

1 Notat all 2 3 4 5 6 7 Extremely

## How irritated were you?

1 Not at all 2 3 4 5 6 7 Extremely

#### How much was your judgement based on reason?

1 Not at all 2 3 5 5 7 Extremely

How much was your judgement based on "gut-feeling"?

1 Not at all

2

3

4

5

6

7 Extremely

#### Dog

A family's dog was killed by a car in front of their house. They had heard that dog meat was delicious, so they cut up the dog's body and cooked it and ate it for dinner. The dog had died as a result of the the car accident, and they cooked the meat thoroughly, so there was no risk of disease.

How right or wrong would you rate the actions of the family?

1 Morally 2 3 4 Neutral 5 6 7 Morally wrong O Right

Please provide a reason for your answer

O Yes

No

How cor	nfident (	are you	about you	r judger	ment?	
1 Extremely Doubtful	2	3	4 Neutral	5	6	7 Extremely confident
,	•		family had n a manne	O		•
O No O Yes						

Do you (still) think it is wrong?

Do you have a reason for your judgement?
<ul><li>Yes I have a reason</li><li>No I do not have a reason</li><li>Unsure</li></ul>
Do you accept that the death of the dog was beyond the control of the family?
O No O Yes
Do you (still) think it is wrong?  Yes  No
Do you have a reason for your judgement?
<ul><li>Yes I have a resaon</li><li>No i do not have a reason</li><li>Unsure</li></ul>

And do you accept that there was no risk of disease?
O Yes
O No
Do you (still) think it is wrong?
O Yes
O No
Do you have a reason for your judgement?
O Yes I have a reason
O No I do not have a reason
Ounsure

right

The doc disease		eady c	dead and th	nere wa	s no risl	< of
How cal	n there k	e anyt	hing wrong	ı with w	hat the	family
O It is wrong		not think	of a reason a valid reason			
Please p	orovide y	our red	ason below	,		
How rigl	nt or wro	ng wo	uld you rate	e the ac	ctions of	the
1 Morally	2	3	4 Neutral	5	6	7 Morally

How confident are v	you about	your jud	dgement?

1 Extremely 2 3 4 Neutral 5 6 7 Extremely doubtful Confident

## How much did you change your mind?

1 Not at all & & 5 6 7 Extremely

#### How confused were you?

1 Notat all 2 3 4 5 6 7 Extremely

## How irritated were you?

1 Not at all 2 3 4 5 6 7 Extremely

#### How much was your judgement based on reason?

1 Not gt all 2 3 4 5 6 7 Extremely

How much was your judgement based on "gut-feeling"?

1 Not gt all

2

3

4

5

6

7 Extremely

#### **MLQ**

Please take a moment to think about what makes your life feel important to you. Please respond to the following statements as truthfully and accurately as you can, and also please remember that these are very subjective questions and that there are no right or wrong answers. Please answer according to the scale below:

I understand my life's meaning

1 Strongly disagree

3

4

5

6

7 Strongly

agree

l am	looking	for	something	that	makes	my	life	feel
mea	ningful							

1 Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5	6	7 Strongly agree
I am alw	vays loc	king to fi	nd my lif	e's purp	ose	
1 Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5	6	7 Strongly agree
My life h	as a cle	ear sense	e of purp	ose		
1 Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5	6	7 Strongly agree

# I have a good sense of what makes my life meaningful

1 Strongly	2	3	4	5	6	7 Strongly
disagree				$\bigcirc$		agree

mave diecevered a eatherying me parpeed	have discovered	la	satisfy	ying	life	pur	pose
---	-----------------	----	---------	------	------	-----	------

1 Strongly	2	3	4	5	6	7 Strongly
disagree	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	agree

I am always searching for something that makes my life feel significant

1 Strongly	2	3	4	5	6	7 Strongly
disagree	$\bigcirc$					agree

I am seeking a purpose or mission for my life

1 Strongly	2	3	4	5	6	7 Strongly
disagree					$\bigcirc$	agree

My life has no clear purpose

1 Strongly	2	3	4	5	6	7 Strongly
disagree		$\bigcirc$				agree

am coarching tor	meaning in my life
4111 3541511114 101	
<u> </u>	J /

1 Strongly 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly disagree 0 0 agree

#### ICS

Parents and children must stay together as much as possible

9 2 3 5 6 7 8 1 Never 4 Always or definitely or definitely no yes

It is my duty to take care of my family, even when I have to sacrifice what I want

 1 Never
 2
 3
 4
 5
 6
 7
 8
 9

 or
 Always

 definitely
 or
 or
 definitely

 O
 O
 O
 O
 Yes

# Family members should stick together, no matter what sacrifices are required

1 Never	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
or								Always
definitely								or
no								definitely
	$\bigcirc$						$\bigcirc$	yes

# It is important to me that I respect the decisions made by my groups

1 Never	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
or								Always
definitely								or
no								definitely
	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$		yes

## If a coworker gets a prize, I would feel proud

1 Never	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
or								Always
definitely								or
no								definitely
$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$		$\bigcirc$		$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	yes

# The well-being of my coworkers is important to me

1 Never	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
or								Always
definitely								or
no								definitely
	$\bigcirc$	yes						

# To me, pleasure is spending time with others

1 Never	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
or								Always
definitely								or
no								definitely
	$\bigcirc$						$\bigcirc$	yes

# I feel good when I cooperate with others

1 Never	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
or								Always
definitely								or
no								definitely
	$\bigcirc$				$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	yes

## It is important that I do my job better than others

2	3	4	5	б	/	8	9
							Always
							or
							definitely
$\bigcirc$	Yes						
	0		2 3 4	2 5 4 5	2 3 4 5 0	2 3 4 3 0 7	2 3 4 3 0 7 0

## Winning is everything

1 Never	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
or								Always
definitely								or
no								definitely
	$\bigcirc$						$\bigcirc$	yes

## Competition is the law of nature

I Never	2	3	4	5	6	/	8	9
or								Always
definitely								or
no								definitely
	$\bigcirc$	yes						

When	another	person	does	better	than I	do, I	get t	ense
and a	roused							

2	3	4	5	6	/	8	9
							Always
							or
							definitely
$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$		yes
	2	2 3	2 3 4	2 3 4 3	2 3 4 5 0	2 3 4 5 0 7	2 3 4 3 0 7 0

## I'd rather depend on myself than others

1 Never	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
or								Always
definitely								or
no								definitely
	$\bigcirc$	yes						

# I rely on myself most of the time; I rarely rely on others

l Never	2	3	4	5	6	/	8	9
or								Always
definitely								or
no								definitely
	$\bigcirc$	yes						

# I often do "my own thing."

1 Never	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
or								Always
definitely								or
no								definitely
$\bigcirc$		yes						

# My personal identity, independent of others, is very important to me

1 Never	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
or								Always
definitely								or
no								definitely
	$\bigcirc$		$\bigcirc$		$\bigcirc$		$\bigcirc$	yes

#### **BFI-2 short form**

#### I am someone who...

	1: Disagree strongly	2: Disagree a little	3: Neutral / no opinion	4: Agree a little	5: Agree strongly
Worries a lot.	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
Tends to feel depressed, blue.	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$
Is emotionally stable, not easily upset.	$\bigcirc$	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0
Is relaxed, handles stress well.	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$
Feels secure, comfortable with self.	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0
Is temperamental, gets emotional easily.	0	0	0	0	0

#### **Debriefing sheet**

Thank you for your participation in this study. The aim of this study is to investigate the phenomenon known as moral dumbfounding. Moral dumbfounding occurs when someone defends a judgement, they have made even though they cannot justify their judgement through rational argument or reason.

The scenarios you read were deliberately ambiguous. The purpose of this was to make it as difficult as possible to defend a judgement of the behaviours. You were then reminded of specific details that undermine any condemnation of the behaviours. Following this you were asked to justify your judgement.

It is not expected that people will change their views on the issues presented, coming to endorse them. Rather it is expected that people will maintain that the behaviours are wrong even if they cannot provide a rational argument or reason to justify their decision. Perhaps not everyone will think the behaviours are wrong.

Previous studies have shown moral dumbfounding occurs in Western populations (USA/Europe). Here we were investigating if it was also present in countries in the Middle East or North Africa. We also measured specific individual difference variables that may be related to people's susceptibility to moral dumbfounding. That is, the questionnaires you completed measure different types of thinking and different preferences. It is hoped to identify if there are specific types of thinking that make certain people more susceptible to moral dumbfounding.

Thanks again for your participation.

If you have any further questions about the research, you can contact:

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