Philosophical Ethics

debating right and wrong



The Runaway Traincar



Ruth Benedict 1887-1948

"There are many answers to questions of right and wrong."



Ruth Benedict 1887-1948

"There are many answers to questions of right and wrong."



Ruth Benedict 1887-1948

 Ruth Benedict was an American anthrpologist whose encounters with indigeous peoples convinced her that there was no universally valid set of moral principles.

"There are many answers to questions of right and wrong."



Ruth Benedict

- Ruth Benedict was an American anthrpologist
 whose encounters with indigeous peoples
 convinced her that there was no universally valid
 set of moral principles.
- For her, culture and community, not reason and humanity, dictate moral principles.



Ruth Benedict 1887-1948

The argument from cultural differences



Ruth Benedict 1887-1948

The argument from cultural differences



Ruth Benedict 1887-1948

Different cultures have different views about right and wrong.

Thus there are no universal moral principles.

The argument from cultural differences



Ruth Benedict 1887-1948

Different cultures have different views about right and wrong.

Thus there are no universal moral principles.

This may seem like an obvious argument, and yet...

The argument from cultural differences



Ruth Benedict 1887-1948

Different cultures have different views about right and wrong.

Thus there are no universal moral principles.

- This may seem like an obvious argument, and yet...
- Does it really follow that there are no principles simply because people may disagree about what they are? We disagree about many things, but that doesn't establish that there are no facts.

The argument from cultural differences



Ruth Benedict 1887-1948

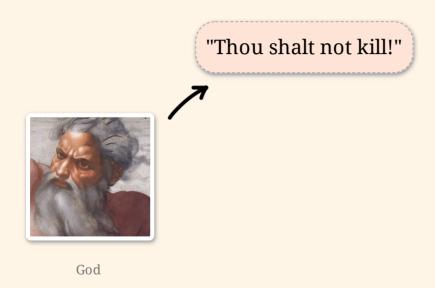
Different cultures have different views about right and wrong.

Thus there are no universal moral principles.

- This may seem like an obvious argument, and yet...
- Does it really follow that there are no principles simply because people may disagree about what they are? We disagree about many things, but that doesn't establish that there are no facts.



God



"Thou shalt not kill!"



God

 This theory is popular among those who see religion as providing an authoritative set of moral principles.

"Thou shalt not kill!"



God

- This theory is popular among those who see religion as providing an authoritative set of moral principles.
- It offers an account of the meaning of moral principles -- they are to be understood as commands issued by a supreme being.

Find out more



Garry Winogrand "Flip"

Credits

Built with:

Rstudio

xarignan html presentation framework

download this presentation or print it

editorial suggestions and comments: requires a (free) GitHub account.