Philosophical Ethics

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Dorothea Lange "Crossroads Store"

George Matthews, Pennsylvania College of Technology

2020

The Runaway Traincar



Ruth Benedict 1887-1948

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



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Ruth Benedict 1887-1948

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"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.

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- 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.

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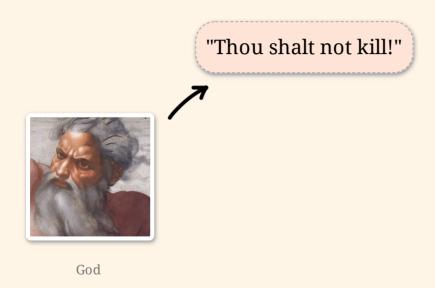
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God



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God

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"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"

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