

The emergence of social structure from pragmatic pressures

Molly L. Lewis

Department of Psychology, Stanford University

Conceptual Analysis of Dissertation Area

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Advisor: Michael C. Frank

Additional Readers: Ellen Markman and Noah Goodman

Abstract

Virtue, then, is a state of character concerned with choice, lying in a mean, i.e. the mean relative to us, this being determined by a rational principle, and by that principle by which the man of practical wisdom would determine it. Now it is a mean between two vices, that which depends on excess and that which depends on defect; and again it is a mean because the vices respectively fall short of or exceed what is right in both passions and actions, while virtue both finds and chooses that which is intermediate. Hence in respect of its substance and the definition which states its essence virtue is a mean, with regard to what is best and right an extreme.

– Aristotle, *Nic. Ethics II 6*

Introduction

Part I: Social structure emerges from pragmatics

it is a mean between

Social pressures

Case studies

Geographical organization of people.

Language.

Part II: The role of cognitive representations of structure