

Moor seems to hold the view that even though different cultures may have different moral frameworks, all moral frameworks have in common certain core values. This view is sometimes called Moral Objectivism or Soft Universalism. It is this common set of core values, shared by all cultures, that enables rational discussion and about right and wrong and reasoned criticism of actions and policies across cultures. Do you think Moor is correct about this or do you think there exist some cultural differences that cannot be bridged that can ultimately lead to disagreements about what is moral that cannot be rationally discussed between cultures?

I find it hard to accept the view that all moral frameworks have in common certain core values without further support. I find it easier to find examples of some cultural differences that cannot be bridged that ultimately lead to disagreements.

The lecture introduced the topic of treatment of women under the interpretation of Shari'a, called Islamic Law. Given this interpretation has had several hundred years of interpretation, it is not hard to find differences as new scholars call for new ijihad to meet society's current needs. Given strong emotional connection and sense of identity, disagreements can occur under new ijihad.

The lecture also pointed to rural China, where young girls are forced into dangerous labor instead of attending school. Going to school costs money and is, therefore, a limited resource. It is easy to see how this reality could ultimately lead to disagreements about what is moral between cultures with different views on child labor.

A hack that put lots of information about someone's personal life into the public eye polarized parts of the population based on even the perception of moral differences. A trusted, truthful senior government leader's reopening announcement, days before the election, created significant financial doubt in US markets. Investment managers had made bets based on data regarding the predicted outcome of the election before this event. This information event created significant doubt regarding that outcome, and some segments of the American population distanced themselves from the perceived immoral act implied by the highly public reopening of the investigation.

In conclusion, there are certain behaviors and cultural differences that if known, create strong emotional disagreements between people. Many examples of these differences, whether real or perceived, have resulted in breakdowns where groups can no longer rationally discuss their differences.