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**Removed from LECTURE 1**

#Central questions

In this course, we are investigating the universal human belief that there is a "right" and a "wrong" way to behave.

- .highlight[Moral psychology] is the \*scientific\* study of how humans distinguish right from wrong and act (or fail to act) accordingly.

In this course, we will be investigating questions like:

- How do we decide that a behavior is wrong?

- How do we judge if someone else is a good or bad person?

- How do we lie, cheat, steal, and hurt others with a clear conscience?

- Why do different groups of people come to different conclusions about what is right?

- How do we persuade others to reconsider their stance on moral issues?

>"Whereas conventions are determined by the social system in which they exist and constitute part of the definition of the social system, the moral domain refers to \*\*prescriptive judgments of justice, rights, and welfare pertaining to how people ought to relate to each other.\*\*"

-Turiel

# Descriptive definitions of morality

.left-column-big[- Many psychologists take \*\*functionalist\*\* approaches to defining morality, meaning they ask "what is the \*function\* of moral rules"?

>"Morality is a set of psychological adaptations that allow otherwise selfish individuals to reap the benefits of cooperation."

.right[-Joshua Greene, 2013]]

.right-column-small[![](images/Greene.jpeg)]

\*\*.large[Consider the following scenarios...]\*\*

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. Nobody

saw them do this.

A woman is dying, and on her deathbed she asked her son to promise that he would visit her grave every week. But after the mother died, the son didn't keep his promise, because he was very busy.

A brother and sister like to kiss each other on the mouth. When nobody is around, they find a secret hiding place and kiss each other on the mouth, passionately.

Answer the follow questions:

1. Are these actions morally wrong?

2. Why or why not?

???

A woman is cleaning out her closet, and she finds her old American flag. She doesn't want the flag anymore, so she cuts it up into pieces and uses the rags to clean her bathroom.

A man goes to the supermarket once a week and buys a chicken. But before cooking the chicken, he has sexual intercourse with it. Then he cooks it and eats it.