

Extensions to the Social Intuitionist Model of Moral Judgment

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Abstract

Current research on moral judgment is conflicted between the social intuitionist model promoted by Jonathan Haidt among others and rationalist models such as Lawrence Kohlberg's stages of development. I propose an extension of the social intuitionist model in which reasoning is used prior to confrontation with an ethical dilemma to shape intuition, after which intuition is used to evaluate such dilemmas. A survey was used to collect information on instances in which individuals had changed their mind on ethical beliefs in response to personal reflection or argument, and whether this lead to future changes in behavior. The results of the survey show that many individuals have done both, which supports the hypothesis. I additionally examine theoretical support and normative implications of this extended model.