

Week 2

New terminology

- More Realism
- Non-cognitivism & Moral cognitivism
- Moral Relativism

Lesson 1: Video 1

The Status of Morality

What are we doing when we make such judgements?

- Are we representing objective facts of matter?
- Are we describing our personal/cultural practices
- Are we depicting some element of the world out there
- Expressing emotion?

What are we asking when we are asking the status of morality?

Objectivism: represent objective facts while making moral judgements

Relativism: describe some personal, cultural relative practices while making judgements

Emotivism: when we express our emotions while making judgements.

Empirical Judgments

- The earth rotates around the sun
- Electricity +ve & -ve charges
- Some traits in plants in plants are genetically inherited.
- God particle is real
- Lead heavier than iron

Moral Judgments

- Charity good
- Take care of children
- Protesting against injustice is morally right
- Cain's killing Abel out of jealousy is wrong
- Oedipus sleeping with his mother Takasta was morally bad.
- Genocide: morally abhorrent
- Polygamy is morally dubious.

Pre-Scriptivism: the view that we are uttering moral imperatives

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Empirical

when we make these judgements.

- Water boils at 100°C
- I'm 19 today

Moral

- Abortion is okay
- Masturbating isn't wrong

Questions about Judgements:

- (a) {
- Are they True/F or opinion type.
 - If moral judgements are empirical judgements what makes them T/F.
 - If they are True, are they objectively true?

proponents of one or the other theory levy against each other.

Video 2

Objectivism, Relativism, Emotivism

→ Status of Morality

like Genocide is morally abhorrent
Polygamy is morally dubious

What are we doing when we make judgements like these?

(a)

Constructivism, Empiricism

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Objectivism

Our moral judgements are the sorts of things that can be true or false.

What makes them T/F is indep. of who we are, what culture we belong to - they are objective moral facts.

Stuff like the earth rotates around the sun. Objectively true.

(Don't think about complex theories like the Darwinian theory of evolution).

Bremside is morally abhorrent - Objective

Polygamy is morally dubious, but it is widely practiced. Then it comes some culture chauvinism to impose that it's dubious on everybody.

Relativism

Our moral judgements are indeed T/F, but only T/F relative to ~~pp~~ something that can vary btw. ppl.

Like 'one must drive on the left'.
→ True in America false in Canada.

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This is true relative to jurisdiction.
And not T/F objectively.

Polygamy is morally dubious.

Depends on the culture.

Or Oedipus sleeping with his mother
Jacosta is incest & wrong.

Relative judgements are T/F, relative
to something.

Saying "Okra is tasty" can be T/F
made true by subjective feelings,
True relative to personal feeling.

→ Subjectivism (A form of Relativism)

Our moral judgements are T/F but only
T/F relative to the subjective feelings of
a person who makes them.

"X is bad" = "I dislike X"

Our moral judgements are intimately
tied up with how we are motivated
to act.

Going back to polygamy, there it doesn't
seem like a desp. of diff. ppl.
tastes and there's a disagreement

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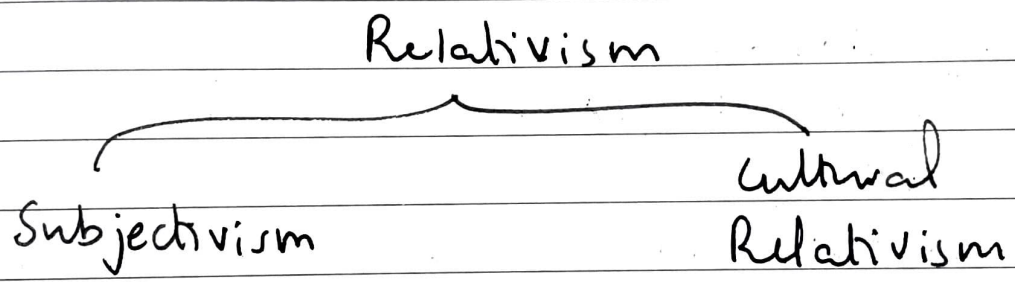
with those who think it's morally dubious and others that think it's not. And a subjectivist has a hard time explaining that.

A

Cultural Relativism (less aggressive form of relativism).

Moral Judgements are T/F, but relative to the culture of the person who makes them.

"X is bad" = "X is disapproved of ⁱⁿ my culture".



Emotivism

Moral judgements are neither objectively T/F. They're direct expressions of emotive reactions.

When someone says polygamy is morally dubious the emotivist just thinks you are expressing your negative feelings towards polygamy. That we are expressing emotions, not objective matter of fact nor some feeling or cultural practice.

They explain the tight connection of

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of moral judgements and how we act.
Subjectivists can't explain disagreements

(a) so, Objectivism O

Relativism R

Emotivism E

answers these questions.

Lesson 2: Video 1

Objections to O, R, E

Objectivism

compare: Empirical judgements of the world.

Relativism

compare: Judgements about what's legal.

Emotivism

compare: Boo for that! Hooray for this!

Think of main objections to each theory to refine our views of them and then think about whether the objection undermines the theory.

Objection to Objectivism

- how do we determine whether something is right or wrong?
- how do we determine whether the empirical claim is T/F.

Can Objectivists explain this intuitive difference?

An objectivist thinks moral judgements can be true or false like empirical judgements. ~~by observing~~ But there's an imp. disanalogy btw. moral judg. & empirical ones. When someone disagrees about an empirical judgement we can just observe the outside world & then come to a conclusion (Earth rotates around sun types of empirical verification through observational methods). The same isn't true in the case of morality. When there are disagreements then it's hard crossing the right method to tell.

Objection to Relativism

T/F but subjective to culture or personal feelings. But if that's the case then it's hard to make sense of moral progress. like in the past slavery was fine but now it's morally abhorrent. But same thing if implied within different cultures, there's difference in opinion but no progress in opinion.

Culpable.

On Liberty
— John Mill

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Objection to Emotivism

Moral Judge. are expressions of emotion
It seems like sometimes we use reason
to arrive at our moral judgements
like reason to arrive at empirical ones.
But how can emotivists explain this
intuitive similarity?

An emotivist would say our moral opinions
are just emotive rxn. They aren't
reasoned responses. Like Oedipus
sleeping with his mom
— x —

Sometimes the objectivist could say
that we do have ways of saying
what's right from wrong like utilitarianism
— what gives more happiness?

Relativist can argue that different
cultures overlap.

Emotivist can say that some of our
evaluative rxn. to env. are as product
of reason. We can't make any sense
of how we reason our moral views.

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Video 2: Further Discussion

- Could there be universal moral views that we all agree with but where basis we disagree with?

Kicking dogs is bad

- could be because of multiple reasons. and we could disagree on which reason is more important

Abayas: relativism, and you can disagree on why they should wear them.

- What is morality? Is it disunified where objectivism is true for some & relativism for others

There is no best theory. Moral judgements come from different places. Sometimes you think about what's best for most people or what violates your conscience or an inconsistent reason to act for or religion.

Morality hangs as domain is

- Agent Neutrality

morality means we act more agent

Watchmen Usage

Date:

Alan Moore monitors

neutral. That they don't depend on specific circumstances but are equal for anyone in the same circumstances

— moral reasons are overriding
feel good, be nice, morality is overriding

Each of reasons is right in their own domain creating a unified domain.
That there could / could not be one unified domain.