

Psychology 2200

Developmental Psychology I: Fundamentals

Conclusion

1

learning objectives

- explain the three core principles of Haidt's "New Synthesis" of Moral Psychology
- describe two studies by Hamlin and colleagues that show that babies are moral and explain how these findings pose a serious problem for Kohlberg's model of moral reasoning
- describe the moral psychology of liberals and conservatives
- explain why conservatives may have a moral advantage over liberals
- defend the argument that the establishment was more morally mature than the counterculture



2

the establishment

Was the establishment blinded by religion or simple stupidity?

- A. religion
- B. stupidity
- C. both
- D. neither



peace vs. **the Vietnam War**
civil disobedience vs. **obedience**
drugs vs. **no drugs**
sexual freedom vs. **monogamy**
eliminating vs. **accepting**
the disparity between rich and poor
revolution vs. **law and order**
women's equality vs. **women in the home**

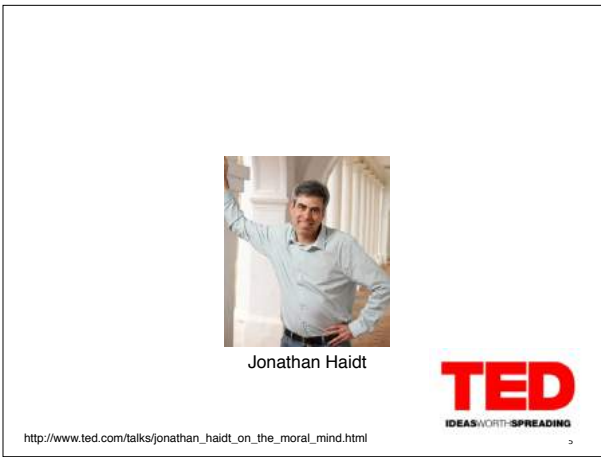
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this lecture

- morality as an evolved set of intuitions and emotions
- babies already have moral intuitions
- five different moral intuitions
 - care, fairness, loyalty, authority, and sanctity
- liberals rely on two, conservatives rely on all five
- conservatives have the moral advantage



4




Jonathan Haidt

TED
IDEAS WORTH SPREADING

http://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_haidt_on_the_moral_mind.html

5

What are your views?


A. liberal   

B. libertarian (slash the government)

C. conservative 

D. dunno


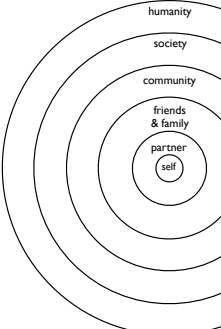
Is this a problem?



6

Kohlberg

babies are purely selfish

humanity
society
community
friends & family
partner
self

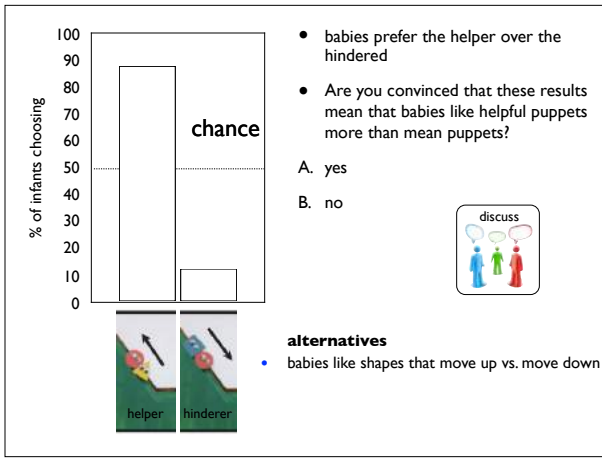
7

Do babies prefer friendly things?

Hamlin, Wynn, & Bloom (2007)

- 6 & 10-month-old babies watch a skit involving “helpful” or “mean” characters
- then offered to choose one to play with
- **DV**: which one do they choose?
 - helper or hinderer?

8



- babies prefer the helper over the hindered
- Are you convinced that these results mean that babies like helpful puppets more than mean puppets?

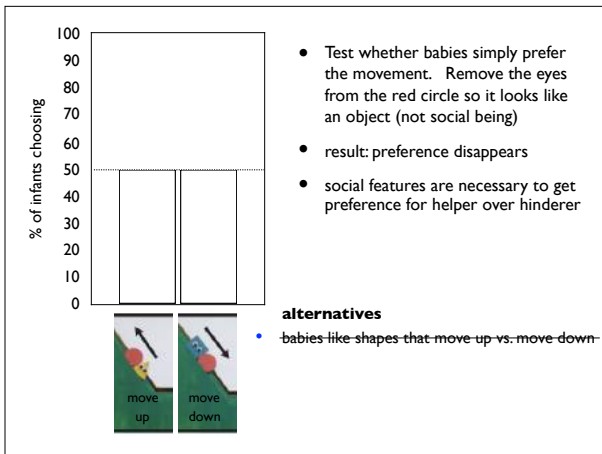
- A. yes
B. no



alternatives

- babies like shapes that move up vs. move down

9



- Test whether babies simply prefer the movement. Remove the eyes from the red circle so it looks like an object (not social being)
- result: preference disappears
- social features are necessary to get preference for helper over hinderer

alternatives

- babies like shapes that move up vs. move down

10

Do babies prefer punishment when the situation calls for it?

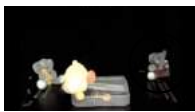
Hamlin, Wynn, & Bloom & Mahajan (2011)



- Babies like helpers. But what if the helpers are helping scoundrels?
- step 1. meet **nasty elephant**
- step 2. **revenge moose** punishes elephant, **nice moose** helps elephant
- step 3. baby chooses a **revenge moose** or **nice moose**

11

nasty elephant



- duck is trying to open a box
- nasty elephant stomps on the box's lid

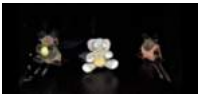
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13

nice moose

"being nice" condition

nasty elephant



- nasty elephant is playing with a ball and then loses it
- nice moose grabs it and gives it back

14

revenge moose

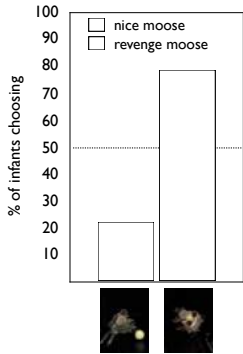
"revenge" condition



- nasty elephant is playing with a ball and then loses it
- revenge moose grabs it and keeps it

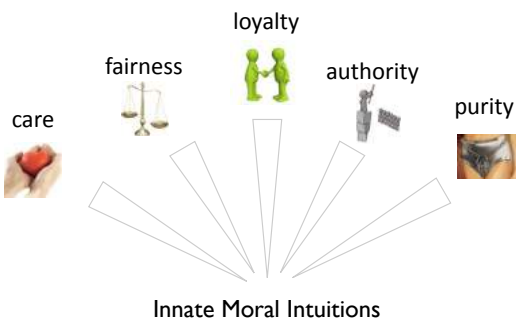
15

8-month-olds



- by 8-months of age, babies prefer a puppet that exacts revenge upon a previously misbehaving puppet
- 5-month olds chose the nice puppet
- lack of morality or memory?
- conclusion: babies have a moral sense

16



17

liberal

morality

conservative

- the mind is organized in advance of experience (nativism)
- people are born with all 5 foundations (first draft)
- experience/culture tunes up or tunes down the first draft
- liberal or left wing ideology emphasizes care & fairness
- conservative or right wing ideology emphasizes all 5

care, fairness, purity, loyalty, authority

18

Morality definition

“interlocking sets of values, practices, institutions, and evolved psychological mechanisms that work together to

- suppress or regulate selfishness and
- make social life possible”

(Haidt, 2007, p. 70)

19

decreasing violence

authority

violent crimes per 100,000 per year

Eisner (2003)

20

re-reading the 1960s?

Who was right after all?

- A. the counterculture
- B. the establishment
- C. both
- D. neither
