

It's not right but it's permitted: Differentiating morality and legality.

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Introduction:

- Wording effects in moral judgment? (O'Hara et al, 2011, Cushman, 2008).
- Uncontrolled law variable (Turiel, 2007).
- Moral foundation theory (Haidt & Graham, 2007, Haidt & Joseph, 2007).
- Personal/ Impersonal transgressions (Greene & Haidt, 2002).

Hypothesis:

- Wording effects in moral judgments.
- Interaction between Law and Wording.
- Generalization of results across all 5 Moral Foundations.
- Generalization of results in two samples: Colombia and USA.

Methods:

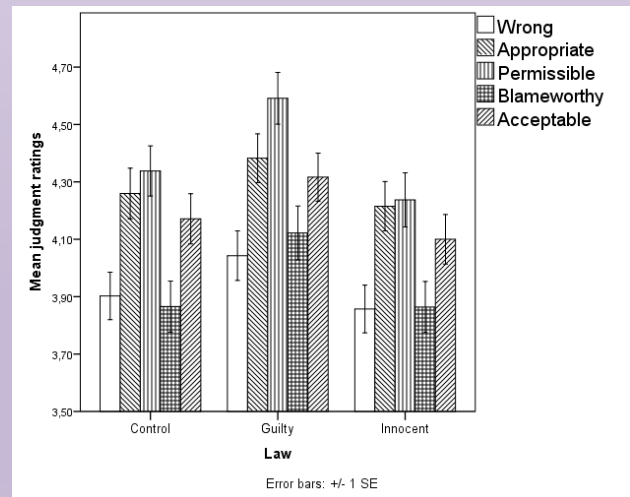
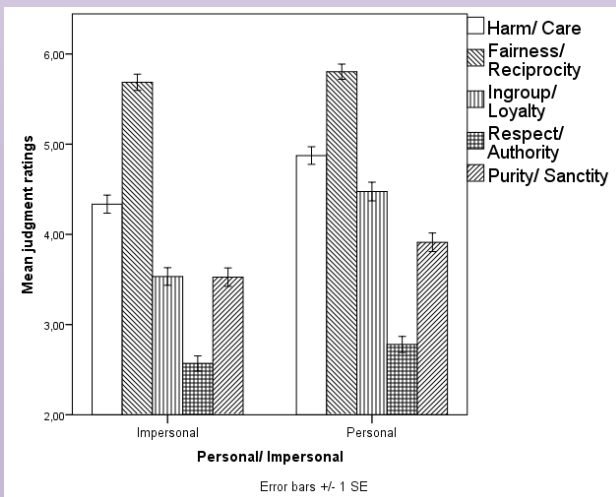
- 528 participants (n USA = 405; n Colombia = 123; males = 260; Mean age = 32,9±12,1).
- Sacrificial dilemmas using 5 Moral Foundations (Graham & Haidt, 2007).

Analysis:

- Repeated-measures MANCOVA (Within variables: Wording and Foundations; Between variables: Law and Personal transgressions).
- Controls: Demographics Political and Religious Preferences and previous knowledge.
- Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons.

Results:

- Main effect of Moral Foundations and Wording.
- No effect of Law except for Permissibility ratings.
- Personal/ Impersonal distinction replicated only in Harm, Ingroup and Purity Foundations.
- No main effect of Country.
- Controlling for: demographics, Political and Religious preferences and previous knowledge.



Conclusions:

- Wording effects: Wrong and Blameworthy vs Appropriate and Acceptable vs Permissible.
- Clear distinction between Law and Morality in *all* Moral Foundations.
- Personal/ Impersonal distinction exists only in 3 out of 5 Foundations: Harm, Respect and Purity.

Main references:

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Haidt, J., & Joseph, C. (2007). The moral mind: How 5 sets of innate moral intuitions guide the development of many culture-specific virtues, and perhaps even modules. In P. Carruthers, S. Laurence & S. Stich (Eds.), *The innate mind* (Vol. 3, pp. 367-391). Oxford.

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