



Positive Ethics

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- » **The goal of positive ethics is to shift to a more balanced and integrative approach to the highest ethical potential.**
- » **Promoting human welfare and avoiding harm.**
- » **Being faithful and responsible.**
- » **Maintaining one's integrity.**
- » **Promoting justice and fairness.**
- » **Respecting the rights and dignity of others.**

Positive Ethics >

- » *Psychologists, students of psychology and related professionals should adhere to their highest ethical potential.*
- » *Being ethical means more than just obeying the law. It is an internal state of consciousness.*
- » *This includes ethical decision making that encompasses a greater awareness of personal and professional values as well as social influences.*

Positive Ethics >

» **Values and Motives**

A personal set of values influenced by upbringing, religious tradition and/or cultural background. The ability to act on moral values in spite of the personal or professional consequences.

» **Ethical Sensitivity**

Being mindful of the importance of ethical reflection and sensitivity.

» **Self-Care**

Paying attention to relationships and social support; balancing time and emotional investment, peer consultation, personal psychotherapy, and physical well-being. Seeking ways psychologists can fulfill their highest aspirations. Experiencing positive emotions. Doing so will transform us into better persons.

» **Virtues**

Who should I be? “The science and practice of psychology are inherently ethical endeavors that we can pursue best if we are clear about the goods we seek and cultivate the character strengths that support that pursuit.”

Virtues include: courage, justice, humanity, temperance, transcendence, wisdom, being just, brave, caring, truthfulness, personal responsibility and integrity.

Making people of aware of these qualities in self and others influences ethical behavior.

Self-Awareness >

» **Ethical Acculturation**

Getting to know the background and cultures of people encountered.

» **Ethical Reasoning and Decision Making**

Moral judgment. Actualizing ethical ideals and using one's motives, values and practical wisdom to make decisions that are morally praiseworthy.

» **Moral Traditions**

Displaying character strengths such as compassion, wisdom, courage, justice, temperance, or spirituality. Identifying ethical sources that are at the root of our own ethical beliefs.

» **Prevention**

Some problematic behaviors may be prevented.

Professional Awareness 

» ***Multicultural Sensitivity***

To be more knowledgeable and welcoming to diverse populations. Increased training in cultural competence.

» ***Political Sensitivity and Action***

Displaying more civic virtue and civic engagement—meaningful involvement in and contribution to the community as a whole.

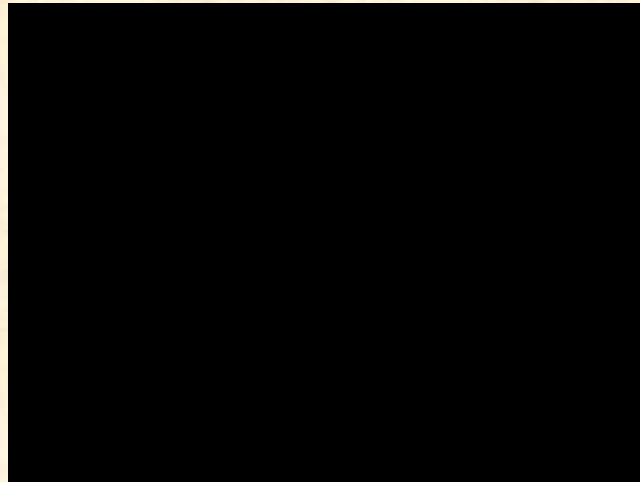
Global Awareness 

» *Includes research and discussion on major issues such as: moral reasoning, character, moral emotion, positive psychology, moral rules, the neural correlates of ethical judgment, the attribution of moral responsibility, race and racial cognition.*

Moral Psychology >

» Jonathan Haidt on the moral roots of liberals and conservatives.

» (http://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_haidt_on_the_moral_mind.html)

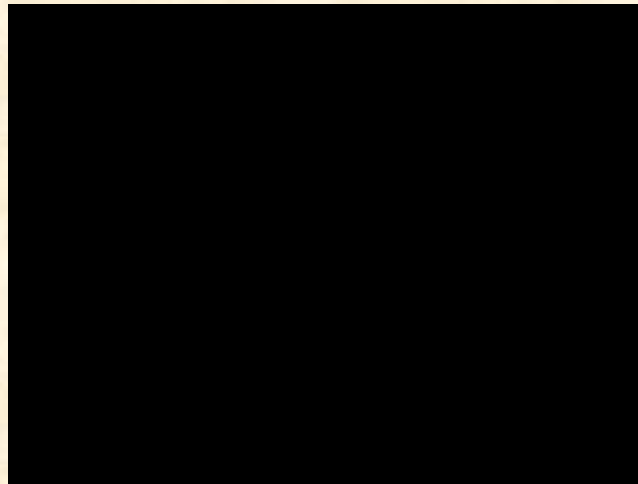


Videos



Justice with Michael Sandel - BBC: Justice: Collective Responsibility

- » [Justice with Michael Sandel-BBC: Justice:Collective Responsibility](#)
- » http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=YfdIAr6ZI5c
- » Should this generation of Germans take responsibility for addressing the evils perpetrated by their grandparents' generation during the Holocaust? Should this generation of Americans take responsibility for remedying the injustice of slavery? This excerpt from the BBC documentary "Justice: A Citizen's Guide to the 21st Century" asks whether moral responsibility can be collective as well as individual.



Videos



- » Handelsman, Mitchell M., Knapp, Samuel and Gottlieb, Michael. (2009). *Positive ethics: Themes and variations*. In Lopez, Shane J. and C.R. Synder (eds.) **The Oxford handbook of positive psychology**. (Oxford, England: Oxford University Press), pp. 105-113.
- » Doris, John M. (2012). **The moral psychology handbook**. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press.

References

