

How to Think About Hard Things

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- Pre-resolves standard conundrums
- Uniformity in expectations
- Allows the community to explicitly state expectations and standards

Advantages of Codes of Conduct

- Life is complicated

A Problem with Codes of Conduct

- Factual statements are descriptive
 - “Steve is wearing pants.”

What is an Ethical Question?

- Factual statements are descriptive
 - “Steve is wearing pants.”
- Ethical statements are prescriptive
 - “It is morally wrong to juggle kittens.”

What is an Ethical Question?

- What do the terms “morally right” and “morally wrong” mean?

THE Question

- Who
- What
- So what
- To whom
- With whom

Parts of an Ethical Situation

- Character - We create ourselves through our actions
- Telos - Actualizing our moral potentiality
- Finding the mean or reaching your goal?

Who – Virtue Ethics

- Duty, rules, and the virtuous villain
- The Categorical Imperative

What – Deontological Ethics

- **Never** lie?
- Our actions change the world, yours REALLY do – the principle of utility

So What - Utilitarianism

- The Bono Brigade
- Rights as history changing
- Rights as prohibitive - the weakness of rights

To Whom – Rights-based Ethics

- Gilligan's contract/care distinction
- The moral import of relationships
- The weight of caring

With whom – Care-based Ethics

- Yes – morality as an umbrella concept
- This is usually not a problem
- The structure of a moral conundrum
- Is this “situational ethics”? Well, yeah.
 - Flag burning vs. endangered species

Which is Right?

- No, but it begins to give us a framework within which we can have civil, intelligent discussions about hard questions.

Does this answer the question?