**Moral Judgment Task (Conway & Gawronski, 2013)**

10 Moral Dilemmas, each with two versions: congruent and incongruent

Incongruent dilemmas correspond to traditional high-conflict moral dilemmas (Koenigs et al., 2007), pitting deontology against utilitarianism.

Congruent dilemmas are identically worded except for the benefits of harmful action in each dilemma, such that deontology and utilitarianism are no longer in conflict.

**Recommended Participant Instructions**

On the following screens you will see a series of short stories. Please read them carefully. Even though some stories may seem similar, each story is different in important ways. Please note that some stories refer to things that may seem unpleasant to think about. This is because we are interested in people's thoughts about difficult, real-life issues. If at any time you are uncomfortable, please notify the experimenter immediately.

After each story you will be asked to make a judgment about whether you find the action described appropriate or inappropriate. Using the mouse, click the button that best corresponds to your personal opinion. There is no right or wrong answer--just choose what seems best to you.

**Recommended Response Options**

*Yes, I find this appropriate* or *No, I find this inappropriate*

Optional manipulation check: How difficult was it for you to reach a decision?

7-point semantic differential scale from *very easy* to *very difficult*

**Recommended Order of Presentation**

Thus far we have always run these in a particular fixed randomized pattern. For consistency (until we have a chance to test the impact of randomizing the order of presentation), I suggest you use the following presentation order: 19, 16, 3, 12, 5, 7, 1, 18, 14, 11, 20, 4, 6, 13, 9, 15, 8, 17, 10, 2

**Recommended Response Coding**

In terms of responses, I highly recommend you code all responses such that 0 = *No, I find this inappropriate* and 1 = *Yes, I find this appropriate* for all dilemmas. Doing so makes process dissociation math simpler. I am happy to provide SPSS syntax for calculating each parameter. When it comes time for analysis please let me know and I’ll send that along. I am curious to know how your data turn out; please let me know!

-Paul

1 Incongruent Time Machine

You find a time machine and travel back to the year 1920. While checking into a hotel, you meet a young Austrian artist and veteran of the First World War. You realize this is Adolf Hitler before his rise to power in Nazi Germany.

He is staying in the hotel room next to yours and the doors are not locked. It would be easy to simply smother him with a pillow in his sleep and disappear, stopping the Second World War and the Nazi party before they even start. However, he has not committed any crimes yet and it seems wrong to hurt an innocent person.

Is it appropriate for you to kill an innocent young Hitler in order to prevent the Second World War?

2 Congruent Time Machine

You find a time machine and travel back to the year 1920. While checking into a hotel, you meet a young petty criminal. You realize this is George Brackman, a man who later on abducted a child and held her for a week until her family paid him some ransom money.

He is staying in the hotel room next to yours and the doors are not locked. It would be easy to simply smother him with a pillow in his sleep and disappear, stopping the abduction and ransom demands before they even start. However, he has not committed any crimes yet and it seems wrong to hurt an innocent person.

Is it appropriate for you to kill George Brackman in order to prevent him from taking a child hostage?

3 Incongruent Car Accident

You are driving through a busy city street when all of a sudden a young mother carrying a child trips and falls into the path of your vehicle. You are going too fast to break in time; your only hope is to swerve out of the way.

Unfortunately, the only place you can swerve is currently occupied by a little old lady. If you swerve to avoid the young mother and baby, you will seriously injure or kill the old lady.

Is it appropriate to swerve and hit the old lady in order to avoid the young mother and child?

5 Incongruent Hard Times

You are the head of a poor household in a developing country. Your crops have failed for the second year in a row, and it appears that you have no way to feed your family. Your sons, ages eight and ten, are too young to go off to the city where there are jobs, but your daughter could fare better.

You know a man from your village who lives in the city and who makes sexually explicit films featuring girls such as your daughter. In front of your daughter, he tells you that in one year of working in his studio your daughter could earn enough money to keep your family fed for several growing seasons.

Is it appropriate for you to employ your daughter in the pornography industry in order to feed your family?

4 Congruent Car Accident

You are driving through a busy city street when all of a sudden a young mother carrying a child trips and falls into the path of your vehicle. You are going too fast to break in time; your only hope is to swerve out of the way.

Unfortunately, the only place you can swerve is currently occupied by a group of children on their way to elementary school. If you swerve to avoid the young mother and baby, you will seriously injure or kill several of them.

Is it appropriate to swerve and hit the schoolchildren in order to avoid the young mother and child?

6 Congruent Hard Times

You are the head of a poor household in a developing country. Your sons, ages eight and ten, work on the family farm everyday in order to teach them the value of hard work and providing for others. Your daughter, however, cannot work on the farm due to the heavy lifting required. You worry that she will not learn the value of money if she does not work.

You know a man from your village who lives in the city and who makes sexually explicit films featuring girls such as your daughter. In front of your daughter, he tells you that in one year of working in his studio your daughter could earn enough money to keep your family fed for several growing seasons.

Is it appropriate for you to employ your daughter in the pornography industry in order to teach her the value of money?

7 Incongruent Crying Baby

It is war time. Enemy soldiers have taken over your village. They have orders to kill all remaining civilians. You and some of your townspeople have sought refuge in the cellar of a large house. Outside you hear the voices of soldiers who have come to search the house for valuables.

A baby with no parents begins to cry loudly. You cover her mouth to block the sound. If you remove your hand from the baby’s mouth her crying will summon the attention of the soldiers who will kill you and the others hiding out in the cellar. To save yourself and the others you must smother the child to death.

Is it appropriate for you to smother the child in order to save yourself and the other townspeople from being killed?

9 Incongruent Relationship

You are divorced now and your former spouse lives far away. You don’t expect to see your former spouse for a very long time. However, you have recently started dating a new person that is positively wonderful. Your new partner is head over heels in love for the first time and you feel equally strong about your partner. You want to do everything in your power to keep the relationship progressing smoothly to what you believe will be a second marriage.

Unfortunately, your new partner has told you many times that dating someone who is divorced is totally unacceptable. It is expressly forbidden in your partner’s religion. Your partner doesn’t know about your ex-spouse. You consider simply pretending that you have never been divorced so that your current relationship can continue.

Is it appropriate for you to leave your new partner in the dark about your previous relationship in order to keep her/him happy and the relationship alive?

8 Congruent Crying Baby

It is war time. Enemy soldiers have taken over your village. They have orders to capture all remaining civilians to make them work quarrying stone in a mine. You and some of your townspeople have sought refuge in the cellar of a large house. Outside you hear the voices of soldiers who have come to search the house for valuables.

A baby with no parents begins to cry loudly. You cover her mouth to block the sound. If you remove your hand from her mouth the crying will summon the attention of the soldiers who will capture you and the others hiding out in the cellar. To save yourself and the others from laboring in the mine you must smother the child to death.

Is it appropriate for you to smother the child in order to save yourself and the other townspeople from being captured?

10 Congruent Relationship

You are divorced now and your former spouse lives far away. You don’t expect to see your former spouse for a very long time. However, you have recently started dating a new person that is positively wonderful. Your new partner is head over heels in love for the first time and you feel equally strong about your partner. You want to do everything in your power to keep the relationship progressing smoothly to what you believe will be a second marriage.

Unfortunately, your ex-spouse gave you a very serious and incurable Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD). Your partner does not know about it. You consider simply pretending that you don’t know about the STD so that your current relationship can continue.

Is it appropriate for you to leave your new partner in the dark about your STD in order to keep her/him happy and the relationship alive?

11 Incongruent Abortion

You are a surgeon. A young woman you know becomes pregnant, but her body reacts in an unusual fashion. She develops a severe case of preeclampsia, a dangerous syndrome that leads to rapid increases in blood pressure. The only treatment is to deliver the baby.

Unless the baby is delivered soon, the mother will die. However, the baby is too young to survive on its own. If it is delivered, it will die. So, although it is very difficult for her, the mother asks you to abort the baby*.*

Is it appropriate for you to perform an abortion in order to save the mother’s life?

13 Incongruent Torture

You are a police officer, and have recently caught a criminal you have been hunting for some time. He is allegedly responsible for rigging a series of explosive devices: some that have already gone off and some that have yet to detonate.

He places explosives outside city cafes and sets them to go off at a time when people are drinking coffee on the patios. In this manner, he has injured many people and might injure many more.

Now that the criminal is in custody, you want to know where the unexploded bombs are so you can defuse them. He refuses to talk, so you decide to use “aggressive interrogation techniques” like holding his head under water and beating him.

Is it appropriate for you to use “aggressive interrogation techniques” in order to find and defuse the unexploded bombs?

12 Congruent Abortion

You are a surgeon. A young woman you know becomes pregnant, but she is not yet ready for children. She has not finished high school, has no income, and was abandoned by the father.

If she has the baby now, she will be stuck as a single mother on welfare for the rest of her life. This will make things very hard on her and the baby. She thinks that it would be smarter to wait and have children later. So, although it is very difficult for her, she asks you to abort the baby.

Is it appropriate for you to perform an abortion in order to let the mother live a better life?

14 Congruent Torture

You are a police officer, and have recently caught a criminal you have been hunting for some time. He is allegedly responsible for rigging a series of explosive devices: some that have already gone off and some that have yet to detonate.

He places explosives outside city cafes and sets them to go off at a time when no one is around. His explosives are inside paint cans so that they spray nearby objects with paint. In this manner, he has sprayed many cafes with paint and might spray many more.

Now that the criminal is in custody, you want to know where the unexploded bombs are so you can defuse them. He refuses to talk, so you decide to use “aggressive interrogation techniques” like holding his head under water and beating him.

Is it appropriate for you to use “aggressive interrogation techniques” in order to find and defuse the unexploded bombs?

15 Incongruent Vaccine Policy

You are a doctor in a health clinic overrun by patients with a serious disease. You just received a shipment of drugs that can cure the disease but the drugs have their own severe side-effects.

If you administer the drugs to your patients, a small number will die from the side effects but most will live. If you do not, most will die from the disease.

Is it appropriate for you to administer the drug to your patients?

17 Incongruent Animal Research

You have been hired by a pharmaceutical company to conduct research on their products. Since products must be fit for human use, they are first tried out on animals. Your job is to find out the effects various chemicals have on rats, pigeons, rabbits, and monkeys. Most chemicals have only minor effects on the animals, but some cause them discomfort or even permanent damage.

The chemicals you are researching are slated to form part of a new AIDS drug cocktail that will give new hope to millions of AIDS victims around the world. You anticipate saving many lives with the chemicals.

Is it appropriate to test these chemicals on animals?

16 Congruent Vaccine Policy

You are a doctor in a health clinic overrun by patients with the latest flu virus. You just received a shipment of drugs that can cure the flu but the drugs have their own severe side-effects.

If you administer the drugs to your patients, a small number will die from the side effects but most will live. If you do not, most will continue to suffer from the effects of the flu virus for some time.

Is it appropriate for you to administer the drug to your patients?

18 Congruent Animal Research

You have been hired by a pharmaceutical company to conduct research on their products. Since products must be fit for human use, they are first tried out on animals. Your job is to find out the effects various chemicals have on rats, pigeons, rabbits, and monkeys. Most chemicals have only minor effects on the animals, but some cause them discomfort or even permanent damage.

The chemicals you are researching are slated to form part of a new acne facial cleanser that will give new hope to people with pimples and greasy skin. You anticipate making many people feel better about their appearance with the chemicals.

Is it appropriate to test these chemicals on animals?

19 Incongruent Border Crossing

You are a soldier guarding a border checkpoint between your nation and one troubled by insurgent violence. You notice a young man in a cheap car approaching the checkpoint with a determined look on his face.

You suspect he means to bomb the checkpoint, killing all the soldiers inside. He is rapidly approaching your station.

Is it appropriate for you to shoot and kill the approaching man?

20 Congruent Border Crossing

You are a soldier guarding a border checkpoint between your nation and one troubled by insurgent violence. You notice a young man in a cheap car approaching the checkpoint with a determined look on his face.

You suspect he means to cross the border in order to work illegally inside your country. He is rapidly approaching your station.

Is it appropriate for you to shoot and kill the approaching man?