

Integrity and Moral Reasons Seminar 2014-01-29

1. Introduction

1.1. Metadata

- Integrity and Moral Reasons Seminar 2014-01-29
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1E_-Pgcnm9ISjd-WUIOhCfe0bwsApt4-3DL6mWij4a1o/edit
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- Notes from a seminar led by [Jim Baxter](#), Professional Ethics Development Officer, IDEA Center on the 29th of January 2014

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2. Abstract

- “In this paper I attempt to set out an account of integrity which makes better sense than the other available accounts of a range of examples that are difficult for those accounts, but which also explains what is intuitively appealing about them. The claim to be defended is this:
- X has integrity to the extent that a) she is consistently motivated by what she takes to be moral reasons, and b) she is motivated to seek out and identify moral reasons.
- I compare my account first to accounts of integrity that emphasise consistency or wholeheartedness, then more briefly to identity accounts and Cheshire Calhoun’s ‘standing for something’ account. The link to moral reasons shows why integrity does not encompass the whole of morality, but is also not equivalent to a kind of unappealing moral self-absorption, which is implied by some other accounts.”

3. Notes

3.1. Introduction

- Jim Baxter
 - http://www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/people/40000/research/person/1907/jim_baxter
- Slides on prezi
 - <http://prezi.com/m29xf0e09scd/>
 - <http://prezi.com/m29xf0e09scd/integrity-and-moral-reasons/>
- Integrity is slippery and hard to define as a concept
- We all have common intuitions of integrity
 - It is a valuable and good thing to have
 - It has various aspects
 - honesty
 - fairness
 - responsibility
- Integrity is a concept related to morality, but morality is a somewhat broader concept
- X has integrity to the extent that
 - a) she is consistently motivated by what she takes to be moral reasons, and
 - b) she is motivated to seek out and identify moral reasons.
- Consistency between what you say and what you do
 - Hypocrisy
 - Business ethics literature has covered this
- Example subjects for illustration
 - Shopkeeper
 - Consistency of pricing for products in a shop
 - Selfish capitalist
 - Concerned political activist
 - Stubbornly honest person
- Alignment of self interest and morals
- Morals don't change?
- Do moral interpretations change?
- Psychology
- Behaviour

3.2. Consistency of values and behaviour view

- Espoused values, true values, behaviour
- Objections
 - Selfish people do not have integrity
 - This is questionable, but do we care about a totally selfish person?
 - Inconsistent values and acting differently to espoused values
 - Aligning with changing party views
 - People with integrity encounter moral conflict

- Making a fetish of honesty
 - Telling white lies
 - Being economical with the truth
- Motivation and moral reasons
- Honesty is not sufficient for integrity

3.3. Integrity and Identity

- Lynne McFall (1987)
 - Beware unconditional commitments
 - <http://philpapers.org/rec/MCFI>
- Bernard Williams (1973)
 - Utilitarianism leads to a loss of personal integrity
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernard_Williams

3.4. Standing for something

- Cheshire Calhoun
 - <http://cheshirecalhoun.com/>
- Bill Clinton did not repeal ban on homosexuality in the armed forces as he had campaigned for when running for office

3.5. Integrity and moral reasons

- Objective moral reasons

3.6. Feedback

- Virtue and ethics
 - Intuitive responses
 - How do we deal with split issues?
 - Vices are inconsistent (with integrity) and virtues are not
 - Having integrity
 - Matching the ideal
 - Wanting to match the ideal
 - Trying to match the ideal
- Seeking out and identifying moral reasons
 - When have you looked enough?
 - Limitations and priorities
 - Getting the right answers
 - A matter of degree
- Static and dynamic
 - Integrity is not static
 - Dealing with the here and now
- Some people think morality is a very simple and obvious thing
 - So in terms of the second clause: can they still have integrity if they are not seeking a more moral position?

- If there is only reason and not reasons then this is Kantian, but Kantians can have integrity...
 - Seek to understand the variation of others morals
- Ignoring integrity as a virtue
 - Can someone be a good person and not have integrity?
- People develop morality so how does this work with integrity?
 - Can people have integrity as their moral underpinnings change?
 - Regaining integrity
 - Supposing someone lost integrity, can it ever be regained, and if so how?
- Military duty and orders
- The difference between being honest and not lying
- Incompleteness
- More things to think about
 - Parking ticketing
 - Under what circumstances should parking authorities waive the ticket?
 - Venn diagrams to help articulate and exemplify the difference in conceptual terms
 - Andy talked with Tim and Morton about this
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venn_diagrams
 - Naked Rambler
 - Stubborn
 - With integrity?
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naked_Rambler
 - The integrity of characters from the wild west
 - John Wayne
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wayne
 - Jim out of Blazing Saddles
 - With integrity when sober...
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blazing_Saddles
 - Did Darth Vader regain his integrity when he jettisoned The Emperor in Star Wars?
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darth_vader
 - Difference between a good person and a person with integrity
 - Did Himmler have integrity?
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich_Himmler
 - Internally consistent and externally consistency

4. References

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 - <http://prezi.com/m29xf0e09scd/integrity-and-moral-reasons/>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Am_a_Strange_Loop