

## **Neuroethics:** a quick introduction

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### **What is ethics?**

Ethics is the study of morality, or right and wrong behavior.

**Questions you can think about using ethics:**

- \* What does it mean to be a good person?
- \* Is it ever right to hurt someone?

**Ethics is not (just) about...**

- \* ...making good decisions in general.
- \* ...following the law.
- \* ...religious beliefs or principles.

## **Two different kinds of “ethics”**

### **Descriptive Ethics**

- \* What specific people believe about ethics
- \* Social and cultural values
- \* The neuroscience of how people make ethical decisions

### **Normative Ethics**

- \* What people *should* believe.
- \* If you believe a person made the wrong decision, this is how you would convince them of it.

## **Four ways to do normative ethics**

### **Utilitarianism**

- \* What will cause the best outcome for the most people?

### **Deontology**

- \* What duties do we have as moral people?

### **Virtue ethics**

- \* What would a good person do? How can we be good?

### **Care ethics**

- \* How do I build and maintain caring relationships?

# Neuroscience of Ethics

- \* What can neuroscience tell us about being moral?

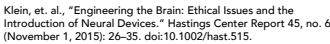
# Ethics of Neuroscience & Neurotechnology

- \* What kinds of research are off-limits?
- \* What impact will neurotechnology have on society?

## Different technologies:

- \* Pharmaceutical Drugs
- \* Sensing
- \* Stimulating

- \* Identity
- \* Normality
- \* Authority
- \* Responsibility
- \* Privacy
- \* Justice



### Let's think about a (hypothetical) case

- \* You're interviewing for jobs with tech companies.
- \* One reputable company wants to hire you, but they also want to see if you would fit into their corporate culture.
- \* They ask if you'll take **a neural personality test**.
- \* They'll flash pictures on a screen, and you wear a hat with sensors that pick up your brain's responses to those pictures.
- \* They say they'll be better able to understand you from this test than from an interview.

### Questions

- \* Would you take the test?
- \* Is it even possible to refuse?
- \* Is it okay for a company to ask people to do this?
- \* Is this any different from drug testing, written tests, or Facebook/Instagram/Twitter snooping?

**Let's think about another case**

- \* You're driving home, and the police pull you over.
- \* They explain that you fit the description of someone who committed an armed robbery.
- \* They detain you.
- \* They're using a new way to interrogate crimes. You wear a sensor hat, they'll show you images of the crime scene.
- \* Your brain's responses to those images will tell them if you're guilty.

**Questions**

- \* Is it okay for law enforcement to ask civilians to do this?
- \* Is this at all different from an employer asking you to take a similar test?
- \* Should they trust the test over your testimony? How should this test be weighed against other evidence?
- \* Could this be used to target people unjustly?