



JUSTICE IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Equilibrium and
Reciprocity

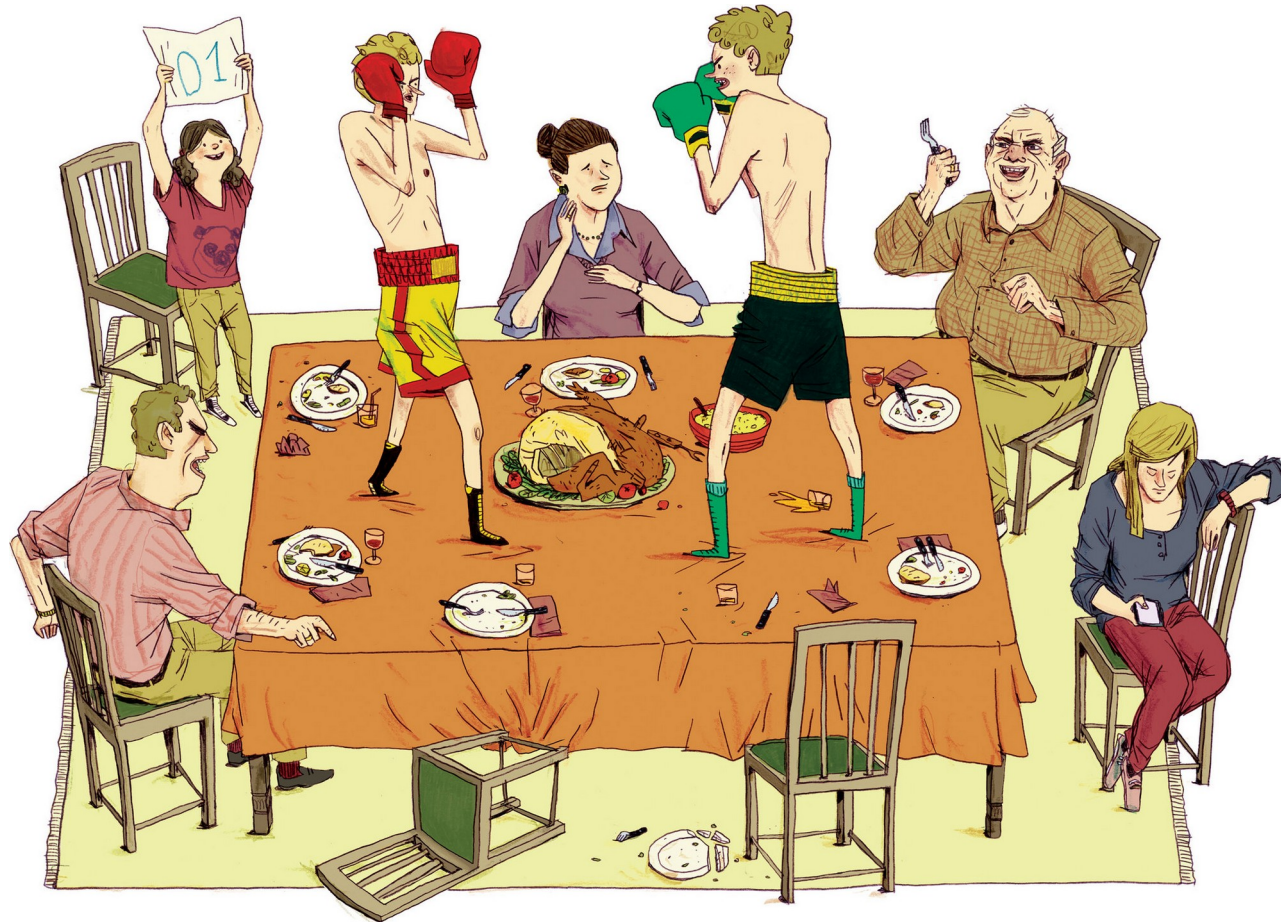
Cooperation at a traffic junction





Pedestrians avoiding each other

Philsoc dinner tonight?



Socrates's opponents (Republic 1-2)

1. Thrasymachus:

“Justice is the interest of the stronger”

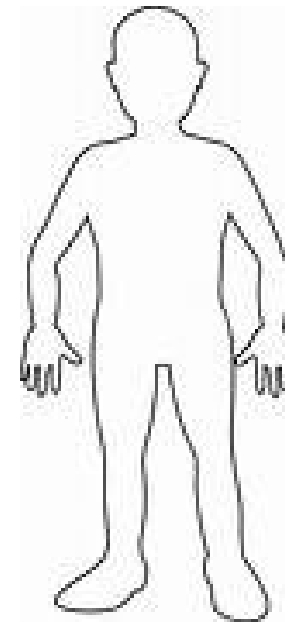


Prelore

2. Glaucon and Adeimantus

Justice is something we all pretend to follow to acquire a high reputation. If we could get away with it, we'd be unjust.

Gyges wearing his invisibility ring . . .



Chimps grooming



Michael Tomasello



Shared
intentionality

Joint attentional
frame

Epistemic humility

One-year-
old (?) child
with toys



Children discussing a problem

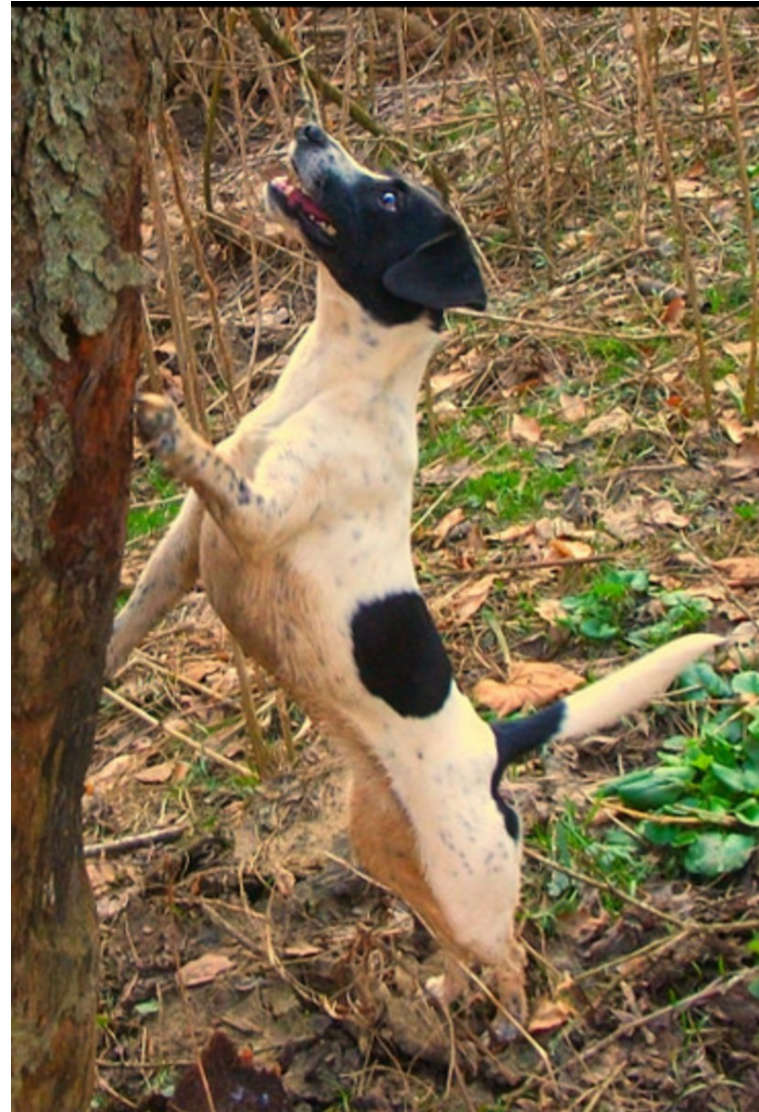


Dog chasing cat . . .

The dog 'believes' the cat is up the tree.

But it has no *concept* of belief, and so no 'epistemic humility'.

We humans know we may be wrong (well, most of us).



Simon Baron-Cohen: two types of Empathy



1. Cognitive

Understanding what's going on in someone else's mind (*recognition*)

2. Affective

Caring how the person feels (*response*)

Babylab (UBC): Kiley Hamlin et al



Puppet shows

Drama 1 (watched by all)

- Puppet 1 (Alexa) helps another puppet to get treat out of box
- Puppet 2 (Adolf) prevents the other from getting the treat

Most babies prefer Alexa

Drama 2 (watched by Group A)

- Puppet 3 (giver) gives **Alexa** back the ball she's dropped
- Puppet 4 (taker) takes the ball away from **Alexa**

Drama 3 (watched by Group B)

- Puppet 3 (giver) gives **Adolf** back the ball he's dropped
- Puppet 4 (taker) takes the ball away from **Adolf**

The vote

- In drama 2, most babies prefer puppet 3, the **giver** (12-4 in each age-group)
- In drama 3, most **5mo** babies prefer puppet 3, the **giver** (14-2)
- but most **8mo** babies prefer puppet 4, the **taker** (13-3)

Drama 2 (watched by Group A)

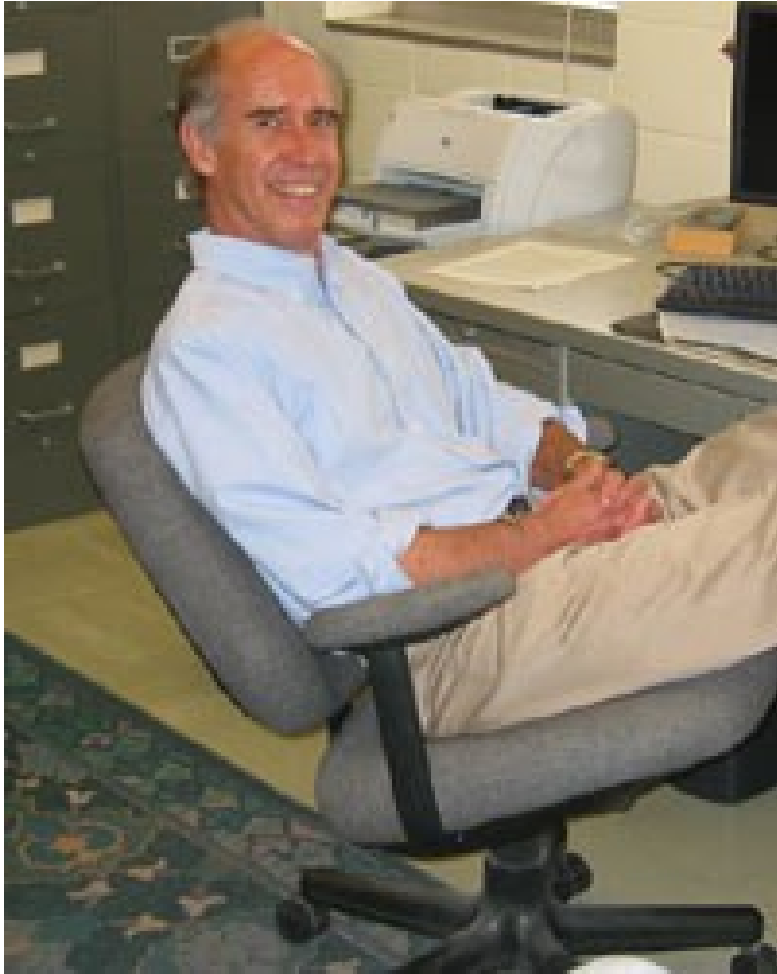
- Puppet 3 (giver) gives **Alexa** back the ball she's dropped
- Puppet 4 (taker) takes the ball away from **Alexa**

Drama 3 (watched by Group B)

- Puppet 3 (giver) gives **Adolf** back the ball he's dropped
- Puppet 4 (taker) takes the ball away from **Adolf**

*What the
researchers
conclude from
their
experiment...*

“These findings are consistent with the theoretical stance that systems for nuanced third-party evaluation are basic components of a system that supports intraspecies cooperation.”



Altruismus?

Definitionen

- Altruismus: „is a motivational state with the ultimate goal of increasing another's welfare.”
- Egoismus: “is a motivational state with the ultimate goal of increasing one's own welfare.”

(nach Batson & Shaw, 1991)

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Altruism v Egoism: a German textbook take on Batson's distinction

The battleground

Batson

Empathy-altruism hypothesis

Empathy can lead to people acting altruistically, not only egoistically
- *as experiments confirm*

Machiavelli

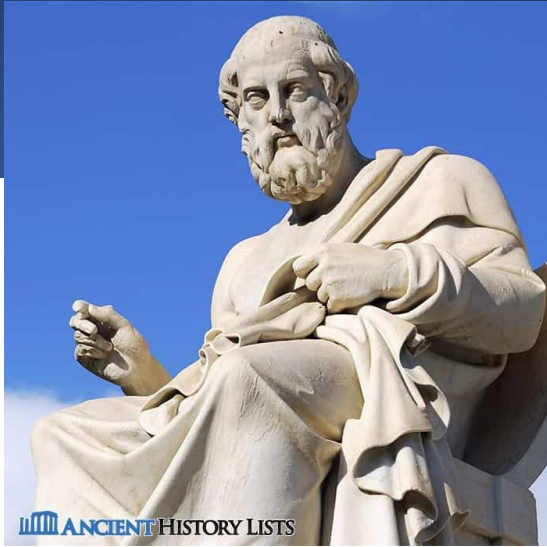
Egoism rules

1. I'm alleviating my own distress
2. I'm avoiding shame, guilt, disapproval
3. I want to feel good about myself

Common sense (i.e. my) take on the debate

1. Every action is triggered by a mix of simultaneous different motives
2. It is probably pointless to seek out 'the one true motive'
3. Benevolence towards others is very often part of the mix

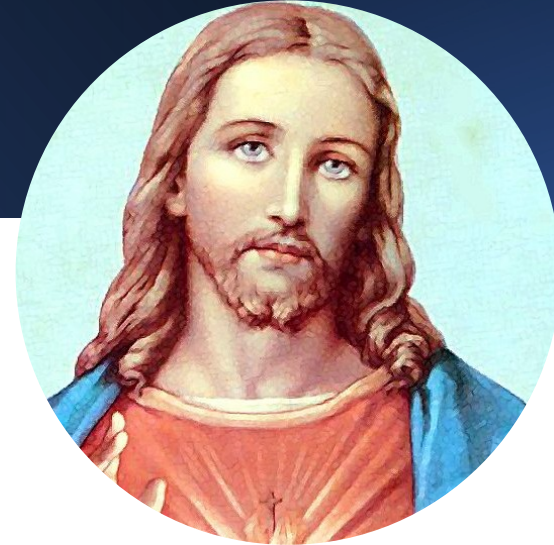
Ancient views of equilibrium



Plato
(4th century BC)
AD)



Aristotle
(4th century BC)



Christianity
(1st century

1. Plato's *Protagoras*

Protagoras's story . . .

- Prometheus distributed to humans all kinds of **skill**
- But they couldn't **live together** in stable cities
- Zeus sent Hermes to instil in them *diké* (justice) and *aidos* (sense of shame?)
- Now: different people have different skills, but **all** have a sense of **justice**

2. Plato's *Laws*: Reconciliation

“when atonement has been made by compensation, [the lawgiver] must try by his laws to create, for the perpetrators and victims of each crime, friendship out of conflict”



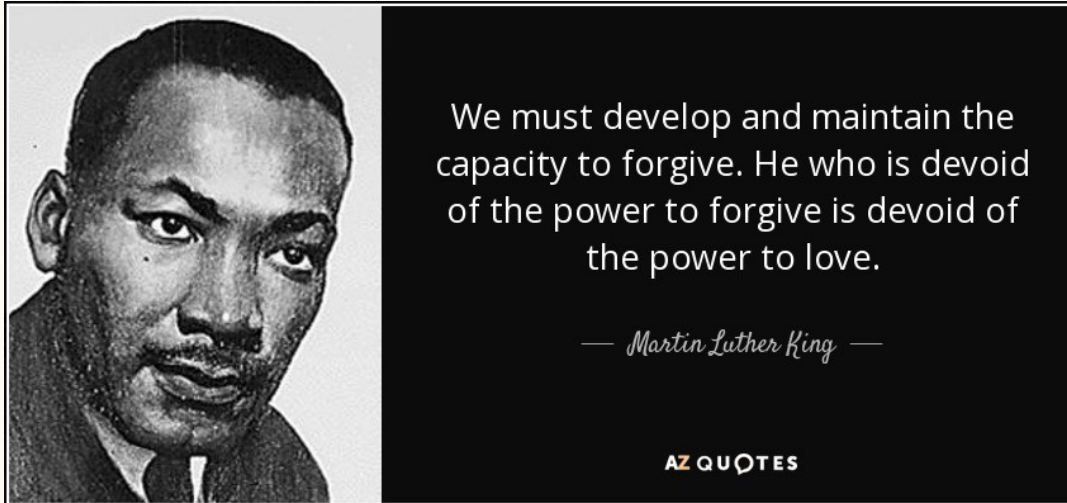
3. Aristotle's *epieikeia* (reasonableness)

In *Rhetoric* 1, 13, 16-18

- Be **flexible** rather than a stickler for what is legally just
- Respect the **spirit** of the law rather than its letter
- Remember **good** rather than ill treatment
- Be willing to appeal to the judgment of **reason** rather than to violence
- **Forgive** human weaknesses

4. Christianity 1st to 21st century AD

“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. (Luke 6.37)



“Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.” — Oscar Wilde.



Conclusion

1. Equilibrium and Reciprocity are basic to human cooperation: they affect every area of human life, below the radar of the 'justice system'

2. They require **understanding** of the minds of others (cognitive empathy)

3. They require that we **care** about the feelings of others (affective empathy)

But 4. We're also lumbered with **other urges**: greed, ego, power-hunger, prejudice, jealousy, competitiveness, lust, irascibility, stupidity, idleness . . . to name but a few!