

# Response to “Human Psychology, Scientific Progress and Moral Enhancement”

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Brocher Fondation  
Human Enhancement

# S and P's position

- Our moral nature is defined in terms of
  - Kin altruism
  - Minimally morally demanding
  - Sense of justice and fairness
- Modernization has increased the demands on our moral abilities.
- Cognitive enhancement has increased the potential for an individual/group to cause massive harm.
- Moral enhancement is possible and would serve to balance cognitive enhancement.

# Moral Nature

- Kith and Kin
  - Biologically/socially advantageous to value family first.
  - Moral proximity is more fundamental than the act/omission distinction.
  - Are our moral failures epistemic?

# The dangers of cognitive enhancement?

- Being smarter doesn't make you more dangerous.
- The advent of WMD makes horrific consequences possible, but not probable.

# Moral Development

- The relevance of proximity
- Globalization/”Cosmopolitanism”
- Moral imagination
- Avoiding moral naturalism?

# Is moral enhancement possible?

- Psychopharmacology
  - *Soma*, anti-Ritalin, anti-Provigil
  - changes to the prefrontal cortex, amygdala.
  - Changes to the mechanisms for self-control, compassion, out-group face recognition, mirror neurons, theory-of-mind.
- Is moral enhancement the same as reducing harmful moral consequences?

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