Day 3

Psychological elements in Ethics

Logical Fallacies
22 terms!
As discussed...

- Ethical solutions are the “right thing to do” in a given situation → subjective
- To make a decision defensible to all sides, the lenses we consider/include must be free from psychological biases and logically sound.
- In this PowerPoint, we learn about such biases and logical fallacies so we can recognize and avoid them
- Most of these occur subconsciously.
mental stress generated by the co-existence of conflicting thoughts

usually minimized by self-justification, misrepresentation, hiding problems and inadequate response to reported problems

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- Situations that have the potential to undermine the impartiality of a person because of the possibility of a clash between the person's self-interest and professional interest or public interest.
- Self dealing
- Nepotism
  - Ulysses S. Grant hired over 40 of his relatives (1869-1877)
  - John Adams, George Bush, Bill Clinton, Donald Trump...

Source: Businessdictionary.com

0 Phenomenon in which the probability of an individual providing help is inversely related to number of people who witness the situation.

0 Kitty Genovese
0 1964

0 Yueyue
0 2011

0 Legal issue?


Usually cited as the explanation for the Bystander Effect

“in a large group of people, people may feel that individual responsibility to intervene is lessened because it is shared by all of the onlookers.”

http://psychology.about.com/od/dindex/f/diffusion-of-responsibility.htm
The effort of people to hide, remove or downplay information results in increased attention to it.
How Decision Fatigue Impacts the Rulings Made by Parole Judges

Fig. 1. Proportion of rulings in favor of the prisoners by ordinal position. Circled points indicate the first decision in each of the three decision sessions; tick marks on x axis denote every third case; dotted line denotes food break. Because unequal session lengths resulted in a low number of cases for some of the later ordinal positions, the graph is based on the first 95% of the data from each session.


http://www.pnas.org/content/108/17/6889.full.pdf
A phenomenon in which people are predisposed to seek and absorb information that is aligned with their original ideas.

See: Facebook and Google algorithms (tbc).
“Status quo” bias

The tendency to stay with an idea without updating or revising it despite evidence that doing so would be beneficial.

“It has always been like this; therefore it should always be like this.”

Defaults are extremely powerful.

Who chooses defaults?
The tendency to trust automated systems (and even ignore contradictory correct information if it comes from a non-automated source) \([The \, TRUST]\)

Inaction due to automation bias, or abdication of a user’s decision-making responsibility to a computer system. \([The \, resulting \, INACTION]\)

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3240751/
Unfair outcomes originating from values or processes that are programmed by or for creators of computer systems.

"...such as privileging one arbitrary group of users over others"

Note that automation bias and complacency exist on the user side. Algorithmic bias exists on the design/programming side.
Algorithm Regulation

- Fair Credit Reporting Act: comes into play in certain circumstances where an algorithm is used to deny people employment, housing, credit, insurance, or other benefits. Passed in 1970, algorithm update comes from 2003.

- Equal Credit Opportunity Act: makes it illegal for a company to use a biased algorithm that results in credit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age, or because a person receives public assistance. Passed in 1974, algorithm update comes from 2022.

YouTube: [Algorithm Discrimination Protections](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQw4w9WgXcQ)

Oct 2022
Algorithm Accountability Act (not yet passed)

S.3572 - Algorithmic Accountability Act of 2022
117th Congress (2021-2022)

Sponsor: Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR] (Introduced 02/03/2022)

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 02/03/2022 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (All Actions)

Tracker: Introduced
Incremental change results in calm acceptance, whereas abrupt change with the same results causes outcry.

http://dplindbenchmark.com/unsustainable-pot-of-water/
LOGICAL FALLACIES
Logical argument structure

0 Premise 1: A = B
0 Premise 2: B = C
0 Conclusion: A = C

0 Logical fallacies occur when premises aren’t reasonable or conclusions use unsound reasoning.
"To the man"

Attacking your opponent’s personal traits instead of the content of their argument.
Basing conclusions on personal experiences instead of empirical evidence.
The manipulation of emotional responses instead of basing arguments on sound logic.
Arguing that if an authority says something, its veracity is beyond doubt.

IN OTHER NEWS

NORTH KOREA WIN THE FIFA WORLD CUP AFTER BEATING PORTUGAL 7-0 IN THE FINAL

http://www.funnyjunk.com/North+korea+master+race/funny-pictures/5218566/
The presentation of an issue as being more balanced than the evidence supports.

Ascribing equal value to both sides of an argument, regardless of evidence or merit.

Related to “Middle ground” fallacy

Major cause of misinformation
  - Proportionality
  - Omission

https://skepticalscience.com/print.php?g=319
FALSE DICHOTOMY

FALSE CHOICE

Presenting two options as the only possibilities, when other possibilities exist.

DO WE SAVE LIVES? OR THE ECONOMY?

YES!!

https://twitter.com/johnfocook/status/1251871235262361600

Implying causal relationship when there is none.
Equating causality with correlation.
Focusing on a non-issue instead of the argument at hand

The iPad moment was just another in a series of bizarre appearances. Last week, Giuliani stopped by Chris Cuomo’s CNN show to unleash a 9-minute rant that bounced from Hillary Clinton to Joe Biden to George Soros to Whitey Bulger’s nephew. Midway through the tirade, Cuomo asks, “Did you ask Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden?” To which Giuliani says, “no.” Twenty seconds later, Cuomo again asks, “So you did ask Ukraine to look into Joe Biden?” Giuliani exclaims: “Of course I did!” He later walks back that statement. The clip provoked guffaws across the Internet.

So what, exactly, is Giuliani’s strategy here?

“His strategy is mayhem. His strategy is certainly not consistency,” said Tobe Berkovitz, a professor of public relations at Boston University. “It’s a brilliant distraction because instead of a rational debate on the specifics, he brings a clown car just slamming into buildings and then driving away. Beep Beep.”
Negating arguments with unsubstantiated conjecture of consequences.

Can be fallacious or valid.

Presenting an altered version of the opponent’s argument so that it seems absurd, then disproving the weak argument.

“With regard to the idea of whether or not you have a right to healthcare, you have to realize what that implies... I’m a physician, that means you have a right to come to my house and conscript me, it means you believe in slavery. It means you’re going to enslave not only me, but the janitor at my hospital, the assistants, the nurses... There’s an implied threat of force, do you have a right to beat down my door with the police, escort me away, and force me to take care of you? That’s ultimately what the right to free healthcare would be.”