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Moral Development & Reality: Beyond the Theories of Kohlberg and Hoffman, 2nd Edition, by John C. Gibbs

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"The most important new theoretical account of moral development to appear since the turn of the century."

- DAVID MOSHMAN, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

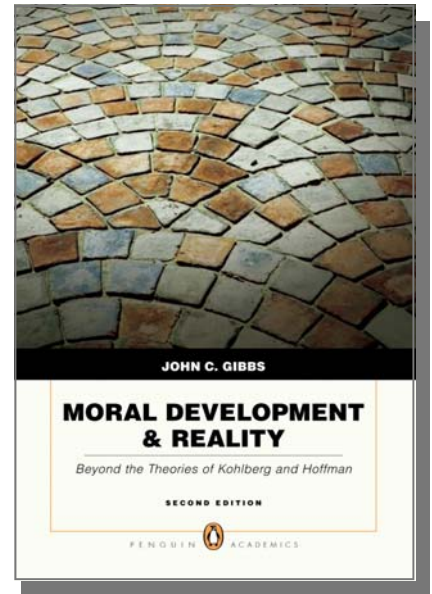
"A bold, penetrating, and cutting-edge analysis... Gibbs brings clarity to current discussions about the nature of moral experience unmatched by his contemporaries and offers his own original synthesis."

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"Every chapter in this second edition has been refined and improved... Gibbs provides new critiques of intuitionist and emotivist challenges to nonrelativist moral developmental paradigms [and] sustains his reader-friendly, engaging writing style."

- JOHN SNAREY, EMORY UNIVERSITY

Moral Development and Reality: Beyond the Theories of Kohlberg and Hoffman explores the nature of moral development, social behavior, and human interconnectedness. By comparing, contrasting, and going beyond the works of preeminent theorists Lawrence Kohlberg, Martin Hoffman, and others, author John C. Gibbs addresses fundamental questions:



- What is morality?
- Can we speak of moral *development*?
- Is the moral motivation of behavior primarily a matter of justice or of empathy?
- What accounts for prosocial behavior, and how can we understand and treat antisocial behavior?
- Does moral development, including moments of moral inspiration, reflect a deeper reality?

Gibbs elucidates the full range of moral development from superficial perception to a deeper understanding and feeling through social perspective-taking. Providing case studies and chapter questions, Gibbs creates a unique framework for understanding Kohlberg's and Hoffman's influential contributions.

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About the Author

John C. Gibbs, Ph.D. (Harvard University, 1972) is Professor of Developmental Psychology at The Ohio State University. His work on moral judgment assessment and on interventions with antisocial youth has not only seen widespread use in the United States and Great Britain but has also been translated and adapted for use in Germany, Italy, Taiwan, The Netherlands, and other countries. Dr. Gibbs and coauthors’ EQUIP intervention program won the 1998 Reclaiming Children and Youth Spotlight on Excellence Award. He has served as a member of the Ohio Governor’s Council on Juvenile Justice, as well as the Social Cognitive Training Study Group of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Division of Violence Prevention). He also serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Near-Death Studies. Some of his other books are *Moral Maturity: Measuring the Development of Sociomoral Reflection* (with coauthors Karen Basinger and Dick Fuller) and *The EQUIP Program: Teaching Youth to Think and Act Responsibly through a Peer-Helping Approach* (with coauthors Granville Bud Potter and Arnold Goldstein). In addition to his books, Dr. Gibbs has published (alone or with coauthors) more than 70 book chapters and articles pertaining to the topics involved in *Moral Development and Reality*.

New to the Second Edition

- In Chapter 1, the author uses the condition of reversibility to strengthen his critique of morally relativistic theories, as well as his case for justice and caring as both primary in morality, moral motivation, and moral development.
- Chapter 2 brings fresh vitality to the universality claim for moral judgment development thanks to the author's and colleagues' (Gibbs et al., 2007) *Developmental Review* cross-cultural research article. A new table adapted from the review shows a universal trend of moral judgment stage development through social perspective-taking across 23 countries.
- Also in Chapter 2, the author advances the fundamental themes (across social and nonsocial domains) of growth beyond the superficial, including the crucial theme of construction as fundamentally distinct from internalization.
- Chapter 3 further advances the author's "two-phase" (standard/existential) view of moral judgment and reflection across the life span.
- Chapters 4 and 5 update Hoffman's empathy theory and now relate it to other current theories (by Haidt, Greene, Krebs) of moral emotion or intuition. New work on Hoffman's inductive discipline and on moral self-relevance is included.
- Chapter 5 now uses Piaget's work on the cognitive unconscious to challenge a common strawmanning (e.g., by Hauser) of Piagetian psychology as conscious rationalism.
- Chapter 5 also continues to advance moral self-relevance or moral identity, as well as self-regulation or ego strength, as important variables that were underdeveloped in Kohlberg's and Hoffman's theories.
- Chapter 6 now includes the latest adaptation of the author's *How I Think* questionnaire, as well as the author's work on cognitive distortions and low empathy of adolescent sex offenders.
- Chapter 6 documents, in a new table adapted from the *Developmental Review* article, moral judgment delay among delinquents in eight cultures.
- Also in Chapter 6, cognitive distortion and social skills are updated as constructs needed to enhance or supplement Kohlberg's and Hoffman's theoretical application to social behavior.
- Chapter 7 advances the social perspective-taking approach to the treatment of antisocial behavior. Recent outcome evaluation literature documents the effectiveness of *EQUIP* and other cognitive-behavioral programs where adequately implemented.
- Chapter 8 on moral inspiration, Kohlberg's "cosmic perspective," and the near-death experience now includes recent work by Parnia, Sabom, and other medical researchers.
- The concluding chapter, Chapter 9, now includes physicist Henry Stapp's work on quantum connectedness as a scientific basis for holistic ethics.