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Folk moral objectivism

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Propositions belonging to the thesis

Folk Moral Objectivism

Lieuwe Zijlstra

Philosophers assume the thesis of Folk Moral Objectivism (FMO), namely that people believe that moral judgments are objectively true or false (Chapter 1).

Existing empirical results do not support FMO but may not undermine it either (Chapter 1).

Results of empirical studies leave open the possibility that people believe that some moral judgments are objectively true or false and that other moral judgments are subjectively true or false (Chapter 1).

People's intuitions about the objectivity of moral judgments vary on different psychological dimensions (Chapter 2).

The different psychological dimensions underlying people's intuitions about moral objectivism have different relationships to people's willingness to harm norm-violators (Chapter 2).

It is possible to be implicitly committed to moral objectivism while explicitly denying that moral judgments are objectively true or false (Chapter 3).

There is some empirical evidence that people are implicitly committed to moral objectivism but this support decreases if the test results are combined (Chapter 3).

Future research should distinguish between implicit and explicit metaethical commitments (Chapter 3).

The thesis of folk moral objectivism entails that people believe that moral progress, knowledge, and error is possible (Chapter 4).

People mostly treat scientific statements as if objective progress, knowledge and error is possible, but do not take the same view of moral statements and statements about preferences or conventions (Chapter 4).