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978-0-521-76847-4 - Moral Development in a Global World: Research from a Cultural-Developmental Perspective

Lene Arnett Jensen

Excerpt

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## Moral Development in a Global World

Questions addressing people's moral lives, similarities and differences in the moral concepts of cultural groups, and how these concepts emerge in the course of development are of perennial interest. In a globalizing world, addressing what is universal and what is culturally distinctive about moral development is pressing. More than ever, well-substantiated knowledge of diverse peoples' moral compasses is needed. This book presents the cultural-developmental theory of moral psychology, findings from numerous countries, and four instruments for conducting cultural-developmental research. The central thesis is that humans are born with a shared moral heritage and that, as we develop from childhood into adulthood, we branch off in diverse directions shaped by culture – resulting in novelty and contention. An international group of eminent and cutting-edge scholars from anthropology, psychology, and linguistics addresses this timely topic and explores how gender, social class, and “culture wars” between liberals and conservatives play into moral development across cultures.

LENE ARNETT JENSEN is Associate Professor of Psychology at Clark University. She is the originator of the “cultural-developmental” theoretical approach to research on human psychology. This approach encompasses what is universal and what is culturally distinctive about human development. Unlike one-size-fits-all psychological theories of the twentieth century, the cultural-developmental approach provides a flexible and dynamic way to think about psychological development in today's global world. Dr. Jensen's research addresses moral development and cultural identity formation in the contexts of “culture war” tensions, migration, and globalization, and she has conducted research with her colleagues in Denmark, India, Thailand, Turkey, and the United States. Her recent books include *Bridging Cultural and Developmental Psychology: New Syntheses for Theory, Research, and Policy* (2012) and the *Oxford Handbook of Human Development and Culture* (2015).

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*Edited by*

Lene Arnett Jensen



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[More information](#)

## Contents

---

<i>List of contributors</i>	page	vii
<i>Foreword</i>		xii
RICHARD A. SHWEDER		
<i>Acknowledgments</i>		xix
1 Theorizing and researching moral development in a global world		1
LENE ARNETT JENSEN		
2 Divinity in children's moral development: an Indian perspective		20
NIYATI PANDYA AND RACHANA BHANGAOKAR		
3 Finnish moral landscapes: a comparison of nonreligious, liberal religious, and conservative religious adolescents		46
ANNUKKA VAINIO		
4 An Indian moral worldview: developmental patterns in adolescents and adults		69
SHAGUFA KAPADIA AND RACHANA BHANGAOKAR		
5 Moral worldviews of American religious emerging adults: three patterns of negotiation between development and culture		92
LAURA M. PADILLA-WALKER AND LARRY J. NELSON		
6 Investigating the three ethics in emerging adulthood: a study in five countries		117
VALESCHKA M. GUERRA AND ROGER S. GINER-SOROLLA		
7 The dynamics of ethical co-occurrence in Hmong and American evangelical families: new directions for Three Ethics research		141
JACOB R. HICKMAN AND ALLISON DIBIANCA FASOLI		

Cambridge University Press

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Lene Arnett Jensen

Excerpt

[More information](#)

vi	Contents	
8	How liberals and conservatives are alike and apart: a research autobiography LENE ARNETT JENSEN	170
	<i>Commentaries</i>	193
9	Taking culture and context into account in understanding moral development JOAN G. MILLER	195
10	The next step for the cultural-developmental approach: from moral reasoning to moral intentions and behavior GISELA TROMMSDORFF	204
	<i>Appendices</i>	219
A	Coding manual: Ethics of Autonomy, Community, and Divinity LENE ARNETT JENSEN	221
B	The Community, Autonomy, and Divinity Scale (CADS) VALESCHKA M. GUERRA AND ROGER S. GINER-SOROLLA	236
C	Ethical Values Assessment (EVA) LENE ARNETT JENSEN AND LAURA M. PADILLA-WALKER	239
D	Three Ethics Reasoning Assessment (TERA) LENE ARNETT JENSEN	242
	Index	249

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[More information](#)

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ALLISON DIBIANCA FASOLI is a visiting assistant professor at Middlebury College in Vermont, United States. She received her PhD from the Department of Comparative Human Development at the University of Chicago and BAs in Psychology and Philosophy from Middlebury College. Her research seeks to understand the nature of moral psychology by examining the role of culture in moral development. Her current work examines the social processes through which children reconstruct the moral concepts of their cultures.

ROGER S. GINER-SOROLLA is a professor of social psychology at the University of Kent, United Kingdom. He received his PhD from New York University in 1996. His research interests, funded by British and European agencies, cover the role of specific social emotions in such fields as morality, self-control, and intergroup relations. He is currently an associate editor of the *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*. His publications on such emotions as anger, disgust, guilt, and shame can be found in *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Psychological Science*, and *Psychological Bulletin*. He is the author of *Judging Passions: Moral Emotions in Persons and Groups* (2012). He is also a frequent contributor to the activities of the Center for Open Science, focusing on the role of publishing in encouraging replicable research and replication.

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Excerpt

[More information](#)

viii List of contributors

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LENE ARNETT JENSEN is an associate professor of psychology at Clark University in Massachusetts, United States. She aims through scholarship and professional collaboration to move the discipline of psychology toward understanding human development in terms of both what is universal and what is cultural. She calls this a cultural-developmental approach. Her research addresses moral development and cultural identity formation in the contexts of “culture war” tensions, migration, and globalization. She and her colleagues have conducted research in different countries, including Denmark, India, Thailand, Turkey, and the United States. Her books and monographs include *New Horizons in Developmental Theory and Research* (2005, with Reed Larson), *Immigrant Civic Engagement: New Translations* (2008, with Constance Flanagan), *Bridging Cultural and Developmental Psychology: New Syntheses for Theory, Research, and Policy* (2012), and the *Oxford Handbook of Human Development and Culture* (2015). She served as Editor-in-Chief of *New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development* from 2004 to 2014 and as conference chair for the 2012 biennial Conference of the



Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-76847-4 - Moral Development in a Global World: Research from a Cultural-Developmental Perspective

Lene Arnett Jensen

Excerpt

[More information](#)

List of contributors ix

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[More information](#)

x List of contributors

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RICHARD A. SHWEDER is a cultural anthropologist and the Harold Higgins Swift Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Comparative Human Development at the University of Chicago, United States. He is author of *Thinking Through Cultures: Expeditions in Cultural Psychology* and *Why Do Men Barbecue? Recipes for Cultural Psychology* and editor of many books in the areas of cultural psychology, psychological anthropology, and comparative human development. His recent research examines the scopes and limits of pluralism and the multicultural challenge in Western liberal democracies. He has co-edited two books on this topic (with Martha Minow and Hazel Markus) entitled *Engaging Cultural Differences: The Multicultural Challenge in Liberal Democracies* and *Just Schools: Pursuing Equality in Societies of Difference*.

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