THE SCIENCE OF VIRTUE

Integrating psychological and philosophical research on virtue and moral development, this book presents a real-world program for virtue science. Offering empirically testable hypotheses, the chapters deliver theoretical and methodological guidance that shows how existing research can become a cohesive and truly interdisciplinary science of virtue. The authors’ unique “STRIVE-4 Model” defines a unifying conceptual framework, making the book an indispensable resource for a new generation of scholars and students. This empirically tested model provides the much-needed foundation that can put to rest traditional worries about moral science. While mapping out the relevant areas of psychology and value-focused inquiry, the book lays out an interdisciplinary approach to many questions, including the problem of knowledge about character. Written for those researching virtue, drawing on personality, developmental, moral, and positive psychology, as well as moral philosophy and character education, the book demonstrates the importance and applications of studying virtues empirically.

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THE SCIENCE OF VIRTUE

A Framework for Research

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This book is the product of cross-disciplinary work between two psychologists (Fowers and Leonhardt) and a philosopher (Cokelet). It is also an elaboration of a paper we published with Jason Carroll (Fowers et al., 2021). Although much of the content is similar to the article, we were able to elaborate a great deal about developmental and personality psychology and the influences of situations and roles in virtue expression. The biggest content difference is in practical wisdom becoming one of the four elements of virtue in the STRIVE-4 Model instead of dispositions. Interdisciplinary work is never easy, but we have found it enormously enriching in bringing the knowledge of separate disciplines together and allowing ourselves to challenge one another. We hope this will be beneficial to readers as well.

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