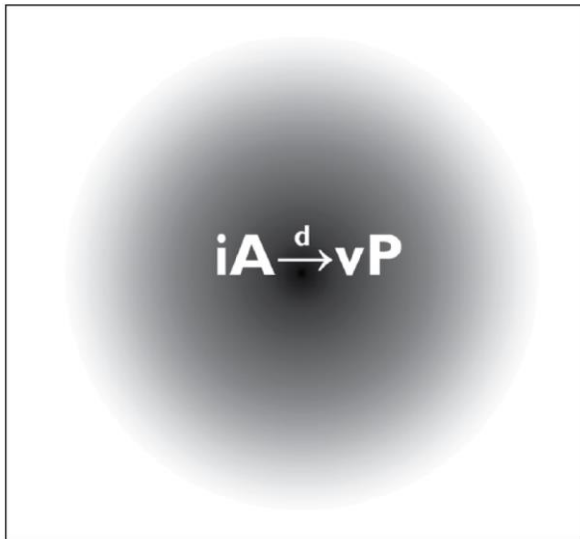


# A Registered Replication Report of Moral Typecasting Effect

Qinyu Xiao

The dyadic theory of morality proposes that people in moral scenarios play either the role of a moral agent or that of a moral patient.

Moral agents are doers of good or evil, whereas moral patients are acted upon.



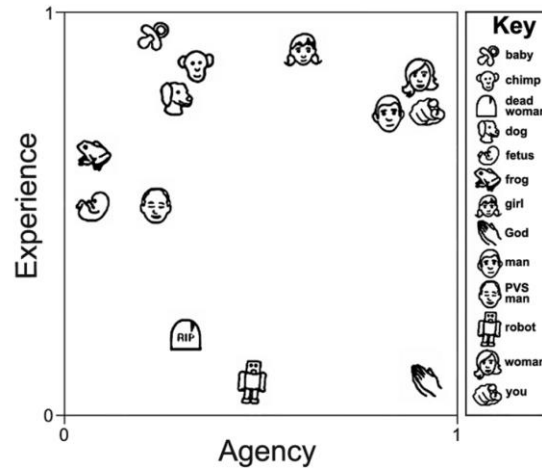
**Figure 1.** Moral judgment revolves around a fuzzy cognitive template of harm, defined as the perception of an intentional agent causing damage to a vulnerable patient.

Reproduced from Schein and Gray (2018)

For example, a thief is a moral agent, whereas the person who gets stolen is a moral patient.

Moral agency, i.e., the capacity to do morally good or bad things, is linked to one dimension of mind

perception that is *Agency*, whereas moral patiency is linked to the other, i.e., *Experience*.



**Fig. 1.** Adjusted character factor scores on the dimensions of mind perception. PVS, persistent vegetative state.

Reproduced from Gray et al. (2007)

Because the dyad governs our perception of moral acts, we typecast those engaged in the acts into the roles of agents and patients, thereby seeing them as having distinctive qualities (the typecasting effect).

- Moral agents are intentional, blameable/praiseworthy, and can take responsibilities for their actions.
- Moral patients are vulnerable and sensitive to harm/pleasure. They are also associated with rights to moral concerns.

Two predictions are made:

- A person holding one role will be seen as having less the qualities of the other role.
- A neutral person appearing along with one role player will become more like the other role.

Why important?

- People doing morally good things are seen as having less capable of experience. Their subjective experience may be ignored (e.g., ignorance of burnout issues among doctors).
- How we determine blame and praise is influenced by targets' role in the moral dyad, and this has legal implications.

Why replication?

- Influential, but studies were underpowered and has not been replicated so far.
- Responses were collected with a single Likert item, not proper for parametric tests. We plan to include alternative measures.
- Typecasting claimed to be valence-independent but did not examine this claim comprehensively and criticized for lack of comprehensiveness. Additional conditions were included.
- Aim to generalize findings to not only individuals but also group targets.
- Mini meta-analysis for a summary effect size.
- Submitted as an RR for maximum transparency and reproducibility.

## References

- Gray, H. M., Gray, K., & Wegner, D. M. (2007). Dimensions of mind perception. *Science*, 315(5812), 619–619. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1134475>
- Gray, K., & Wegner, D. M. (2009). Moral typecasting: Divergent perceptions of moral agents and moral patients. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 96(3), 505–520. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0013748>
- Schein, C., & Gray, K. (2018). The theory of dyadic morality: Reinventing moral judgment by redefining harm. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 22(1), 32–70. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1088868317698288>