

Chapter 7. GR Logic

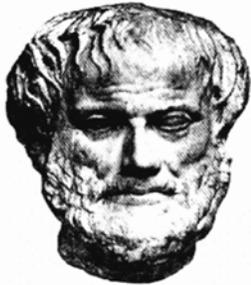
Chapter 8. GR Applications

Moral rationality (KICO) preliminaries

- Racism
- Global warming
- Moral education
- Animal treatment
- Immigration
- Professional responsibilities

Chapter 9. GR Frameworks

We can expand KITA
(Know-Imagine-Test-Act) to get KICO:

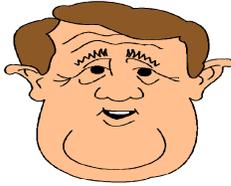


We're *rational (wise)* in our moral judgments to the extent that we satisfy four general requirements:

- K Knowledge,
- I Imagination,
- C Consistency, and
- O Other things.

Ashley and Bob on immigration; Jeb, Sue, and baby Mia.

Criticizing racist principles



Ima Racist

“All people of dark skin ought to be treated poorly, just because they have dark skin.”

For Ima to be consistent, he'd have to desire that if he had dark skin then he'd be treated poorly. Ima might do this because of:

- *Lack of knowledge*: He doesn't think such people suffer.
- *Lack of imagination*: He hasn't imagined himself in their place.
- *Perverted desires*: He so hates the idea of having dark skin that he hates himself when he imagines himself having dark skin.

If Romeo says “I desire that I’d be mistreated if I were a Capulet,” then we need to criticize his desires. Desires can be criticized using KICO (Knowledge, Imagination, Consistency, and Other things).



“I hate the idea of eating worms.”



“I want to kill Capulets.”

Criticizing racist arguments



Ima Racist

“Blacks ought to be treated poorly – because they’re inferior.”

Poor ways to counter the racist’s argument:

- Claim that all races are genetically equal.
- Claim that people of all races ought to be treated equally.



Ima Racist

“Blacks ought to be treated poorly – because they’re inferior.”

It’s better to (a) clarify the argument, (b) criticize factual errors, and (c) see if the person applies the moral principle consistently.

All blacks have an IQ of less than 80.

All who have an IQ of less than 80 ought to be treated poorly.

∴ All blacks ought to be treated poorly.

Other examples: Women shouldn’t be allowed to vote, because they’re less intelligent. Women should be paid less for the same job, because they gossip all the time.

Criticizing racist actions



Ima Racist

- K KNOW: “How do racist actions affect the victims of such actions?”
- I IMAGINE: “What would it be like to have such things done to me (and to my loved ones)?”
- T TEST for consistency: “Am I willing that if I were in the place of the victims then this be done to me?”
- A ACT toward others only as you’re willing to be treated in the same situation.

How could racism have become so widespread?

Global warming



- K KNOW: “How would our current use of fossil fuels affect future generations?”
- I IMAGINE: “What would it be like to have this done to me and to my loved ones?”
- T TEST for consistency: “Am I now willing that if I were in the same situation (as future generations) then this be done to me?”
- A ACT toward others only as you’re willing to be treated in the same situation.

What about climate-change deniers? Concede them a 50% chance of being right and use the half-loaded revolver analogy.

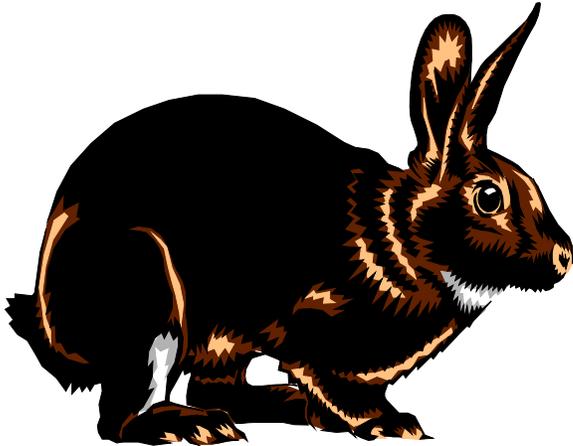
Moral education

Teach CONTENT (moral rules, by example, words, praise-blame, and reward-punishment) and METHOD (KICO moral rationality).



- K *Knowledge*: Make informed decisions.
- I *Imagination*: Imagine yourself in the other's place.
- C *Consistency*: Be consistent in your beliefs and ends-means, live in harmony with your moral beliefs, make similar evaluations about similar actions, and *treat others as you want to be treated*.
- O *Other things*: ...

Animal treatment



GR applies to our treatment of *sentient beings*: “Don’t step on X without being willing that if you were in X’s situation then you be stepped on.”

Examples: Animal experimentation, factory farming, vegetarianism versus demi-vegetarianism.

A GR principle for evaluating immigration policies

For any acceptable immigration policy, we must, after coming to know how it would affect the various parties and imagining ourselves vividly and accurately in their places, be willing to have it followed toward us and our children, regardless of where we imagine ourselves in the situation (whether as citizen or as immigrant).

Professional responsibilities

What sort of a nurse do I want for myself (or for my loved ones) when I'm in need of a nurse?



In reflecting on professional responsibilities, apply GR, KITA, and KICO profusely.