

Technology and ethics Introduction

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The course

- Lectures, seminars, project
- Literature: Bynum-Rogerson, (Rachels, Quinn, Tavani), papers
- Examination: Participation, assignment, project, essay
- Theories (philosophy, psychology) and practical methods applicable in professional issues
- Program?

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Program

Date, room	Subject	Presenter	Literature, etc.
23 Oct	Introduction	IK	Links
27 Oct	Ethical skills	IK	Papers
06 Nov	Technology ethics	Gr I	BR I
13 Nov	Prof. ethics	Gr. II	BR II-III
20 Nov	Ethical issues	Gr. III	BR IV, assignm.
27 Nov	Training	IK	Papers
08 Dec 13-15	Seminar	All groups	Projects

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What is morality and ethics?

- **Content:** "Right actions are moral but wrong actions are immoral"
- **Choice:** "Morality and ethics are related to choice"

Technology and ethics

- Technology is necessary, modern society can not function without it
- Technology affects significant values for persons and organizations
- Technology is malleable, it can be a tool for almost any purpose
- Technology has a much bigger impact, both positive and negative, on all aspects of life, compared to any other human artifact

Ethical usability?

- Ethical aspects have an increasing impact on technology usability
- Good technology do not cause conflicts
- Good technology satisfies important values and interests
- People do not want to and cannot use technology that does not satisfy the above, independently of its other usability aspects

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Do we need ethics?

- There are really no problems! Just follow the law, the rules, or your moral feeling!
- Education in ethics cannot make people better!
- It is impossible to use ethics education in real life!

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Do we know what is right?

- World: changing, global, unpredictable, complex
- Scientific and technical development
- Problems vary, are personal, different
- People are complex, isolated, undefined
- No functioning authorities & guidelines
- Decentralization, delegation
- Intense public and media interest

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Can it be serious?

- Low usability and less profits
- Bad service, no trust
- Higher stress, worse environment
- Confusion, fear, desperation ...

Sub optimality: Nothing spectacular but devastating in time

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Is it easy or difficult?

Generally we are constrained because of our nature but ethics are harder:

- Incompatible values decide right and wrong
- Contradictory cases, e.g. double standards
- Strong emotions
- Authority is very important
- Focus on content not on process

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Gaining Knowledge

	Nature, technology	Society, morality
Content Answer Facit	No	Yes
Method Process Skill	Yes	No

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Ethical insecurity?

Handling of moral issues creates a big risk:

Important myths can be destroyed

- *For persons:* Resolution of problems, personal development, but risk to lose enthusiasm, get disoriented, lost, cynical
- *For organizations, society:* Hero, e.g. whistle blowing (courageous, responsible), or offend persons and principles (show no respect, disloyalty, treason, hostility)

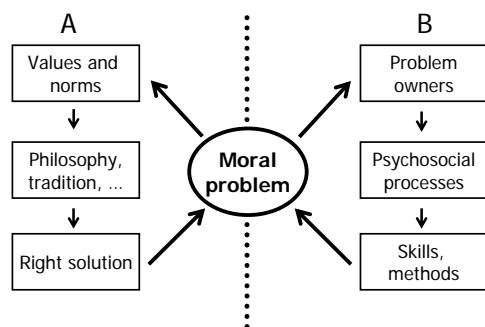
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What do we need?

- *Ethical competence:* Know how to handle ethical issues, how to think
- *Ethical processes:* Roles, procedures, mechanisms in organizations
- *Ethical confidence:* Know that we can find good solutions and trust our ability (i.e. know that our skill and our way of handling moral issues is working)

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Different approaches



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