The Morality Maze: An Introduction To Moral Ecology

Neil M Daniels

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Exploring the moral maze. Life 23 November 2005. By Dan Jones. A TROLLEY train comes hurtling down the line, out of control. It is heading towards five people who are stuck on the track. If you do nothing they face certain death. But you have a choice: with the flick of a switch, you can divert the trolley down another line—a line on which only one person is stuck. What do you do? Perhaps, like most people, you believe that it is right to minimise the carnage, so you do the rational thing and flick that switch. But what if the situation was slightly different? They have long been split into two camps: one arguing that moral judgments arise from rational thought, the other that the roots of morality are emotional. But the trolley-train dilemma just doesn’t fit this black-or-white... Continue reading.

Historically, moral deliberation has been a catalyst for moral change. “For example, people thought through the issues that led to the moral notions that slavery is wrong, and that men and women and different ethnic groups should have equal rights,” says Bloom. “This has played a huge role in our civilisation and society.” Contemplation of moral issues leads to new moral norms, which become part of the moral fabric of the societies that future generations inhabit. Wherever humans have made moral progress, critical thinking has been essential. In addition, moral reasoning al In Morality Bernard Williams confronts the problems of writing moral philosophy, and offers a stimulating alternative to more systematic accounts which seem nevertheless to have left all the important issues somewhere ...