

A. Trolley (and other) Problems

1. The trolley-driver
2. The bystander at the switch
3. The Fat Man
4. The uncle-poisoners
5. The switch and the loop
6. The surgeon at the hospital
7. The botanist in the jungle

B. Possible theories to explain different responses

- a) Killing is worse than letting die (*contra* the ‘equivalence thesis’) (Foot)
- b) Never use a human being as a means (Kant)
- c) Rights trump utilities (Dworkin)
- d) The intended v the foreseen (Foot)
- e) Diverting a threat v creating a new one (Thomson)

C. Intuitions v Thinking

- Responses: utilitarian v deontological
- Areas of brain: thinking v emotional
- Roots of instinct/intuition: evolution + upbringing + culture
- Intuitions of psychological interest, but with no normative force
- A basic assumption (‘rational intuition’): the general happiness
- Rational approach: the morality of an action depends on how much its consequences contribute to the general happiness
- Three levels of consequence of an action:
 - Immediate effects: generally knowable
 - Knock-on effects: usually speculative
 - Effect of the relevant rule on the general happiness: generally knowable
- Our moral intuitions often coincide with the last – but we must be alert to exceptions