

ETIK OCH TEKNIK

Teknik, makt och mänsklighetens framtid

Per Fors, 4/2-2020



AGENDA

- Introduction to the workshop
- Introduction to ethics
- Group assignment 1
- Group assignment 2

INTRODUKTION TILL WORKSHOPEN

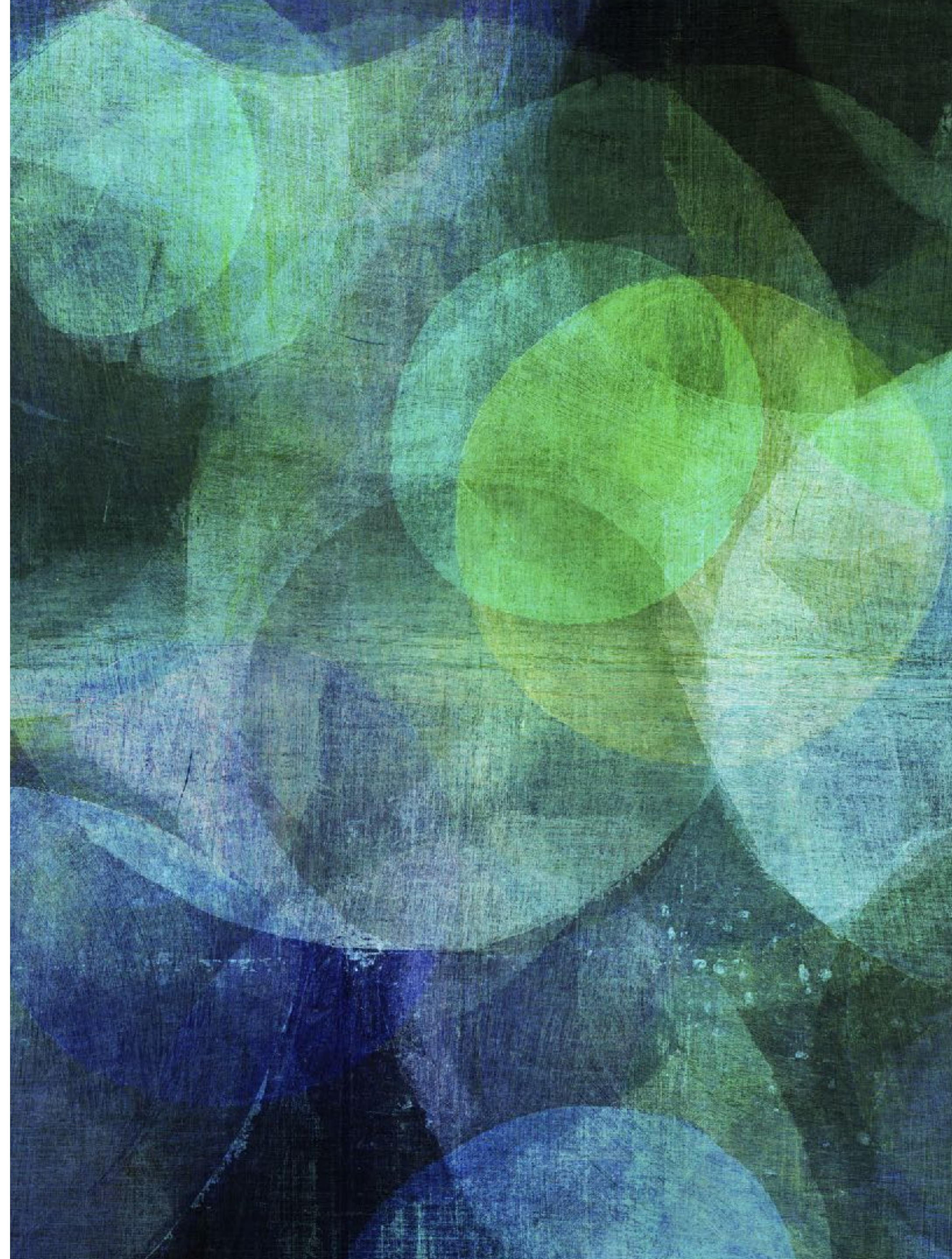
➤ Upplägg

- kort introduktion till etiken (13:15–14:00)
- 2 gruppuppgifter (14:00–15:30)
- Diskussion och presentation av lösningar (15:30–16:00)

➤ Syfte

- Bekanta er med några grundläggande normativa etiska teorier
- Genom användning av dessa teorier, empirisk kunskap och kritisk reflektion börja förstå hur beslut i teknikintensiva miljöer kan utvärderas/rättfärdigas etiskt
- Förstå värdet av ett etiskt förhållningssätt till teknik

SHORT INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS





WHAT IS ETHICS?

- "We are constantly moralizing others"
 - *Gut feeling* – expression of what?
- What if your gut feeling cannot always be trusted? Ethics.
- The philosophy of what's right and wrong, good and bad, and so on.
 - Studied by philosophers, practiced by everyone: researchers, doctors and nurses, engineers, etc.
- Ethics is *messy*.

GUT FEELING

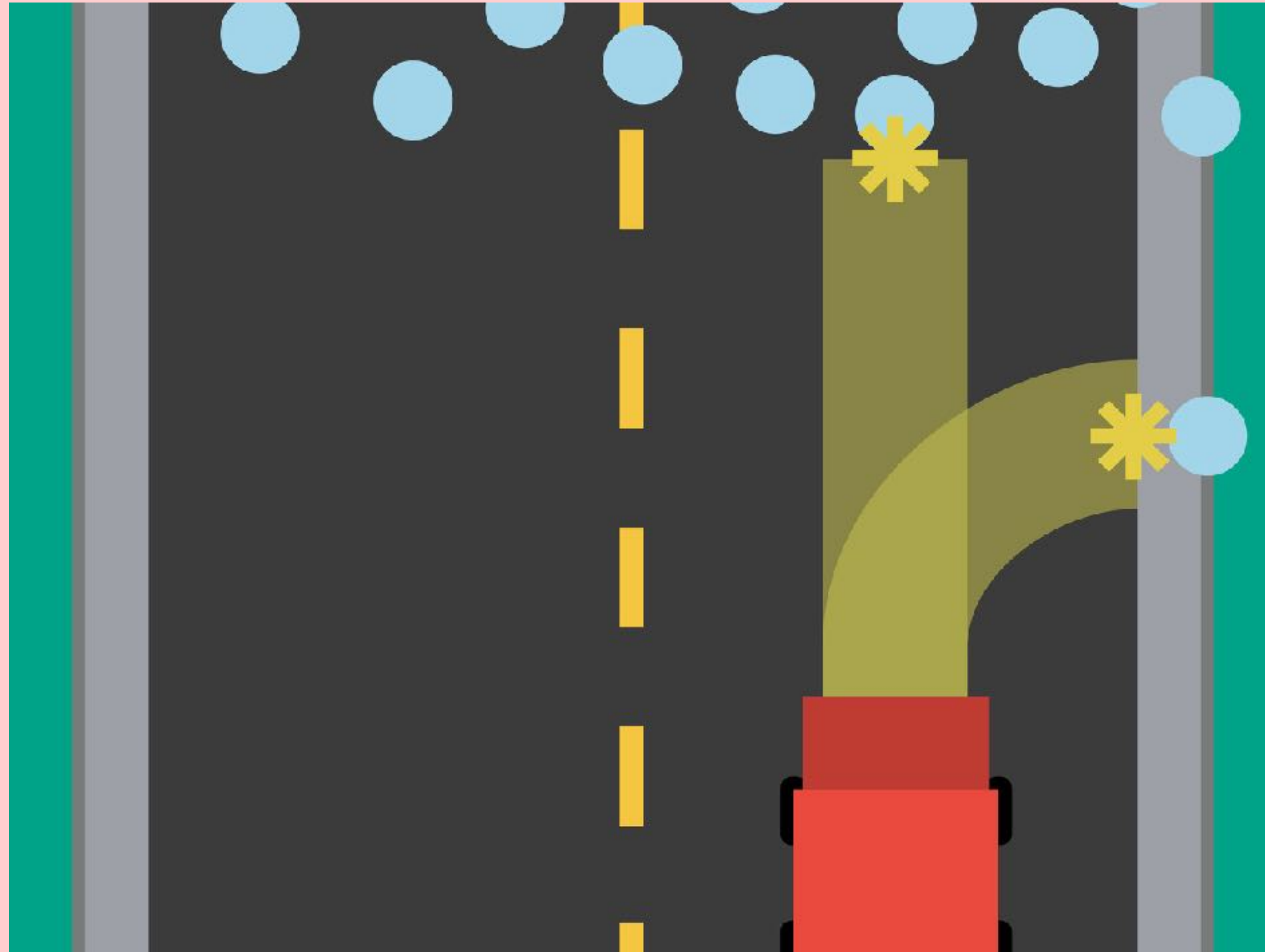
- A man goes to the supermarket once a week and buys a dead chicken. But before cooking the chicken, he has sexual intercourse with it. Then he thoroughly cooks it and eats it.
- A family dog was killed by a car in front of the house. The family had heard that dog meat was delicious and cut up, cooked, and ate the dog for dinner.

This evokes feelings of disgust, perhaps enough to condemn the persons ethically. However, when we think critically we must discuss and analyse even things such as cannibalism, sex with dead chickens, or eating your run-over dog. The very strong gut feeling is not enough. But the gut feeling can help us identify that something we care deeply about is at stake.

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND ETHICAL GUIDELINES

- "With great power comes great responsibility"
- Some professions come with greater pressure of ethical reasoning than others. Why?
- Codes of Conduct (CoC)
- Professional ethics in conflict with other values (e.g. Swedish Engineers CoH)
 - "Engineers in their professional capacity ought to feel personally responsible for technology being used in a manner that benefits humanity, the environment and society."
 - "Engineers ought to show complete loyalty to employers and colleagues. Difficulties in this respect ought to be raised in open discussions, in the first instance at the workplace."

ETHICAL DILEMMAS



Self-Driving Mercedes Will Be Programmed To Sacrifice Pedestrians To Save The Driver



Mercedes gets around the moral issues of self-driving cars by deciding that—of course—drivers are more important than anyone else.



Trolley problem memes

When they crash, self-driving Mercedes will be programmed to save the driver, and not the person or people they hit. That's the design decision behind the Mercedes Benz's future Level 4 and Level 5 autonomous cars, according to the company's manager of driverless car safety, Christoph von Hugo. Instead of worrying about troublesome details like ethics, Mercedes will just program its cars to save the driver and the car's occupants, in every situation.

In the meantime, you should probably buy a Mercedes, but avoid crossing the road if you see one coming.

Source: Trolley problem memes (FB), Fastcompany (2016)



(SOME) NORMATIVE ETHICAL THEORIES

- Deontological theories
- Virtue ethics
- Consequentialist theories
- Relational ethics/Ethics of care
- Justice and fairness




DEONTOLOGICAL THEORIES

- Focus on the inherent goodness or evil in actions (and largely disregards from consequences of such actions)
- CoC, the law, the ten commandments, the golden rule, etc.
- Kant and "duty ethics"
 - The hypothetical imperative: "*if... then...*" and the categorical imperative: *universalizable*.

FROM "GOOD RESEARCH PRACTICE"

- 1) You shall tell the truth about your research.
- 2) You shall consciously review and report the basic premises of your studies.
- 3) You shall openly account for your methods and results.
- 4) You shall openly account for your commercial interests and other associations.
- 5) You shall not make unauthorised use of the research results of others.
- 6) You shall keep your research organised, for example through documentation and filing.
- 7) You shall strive to conduct your research without doing harm to people, animals or the environment.
- 8) You shall be fair in your judgement of others' research.



PENGUIN  CLASSICS

PLATO

The Republic

VIRTUE ETHICS

- Focus on the personality traits, or virtues, that make persons act in a certain way
- "Good actions flow from a good character, but simultaneously, good actions build a good character"
- Plato's republic – philosopher kings (*sophia*), police and military (*andreia*), and the people (*sophrosyne*).
- Aristotelian virtue ethics – Live according to virtues, and reach *eudaimonia* (fulfilment, happiness, and satisfaction).
 - The golden mean (e.g. foolhardiness – courage – cowardice).



CONSEQUENTIALIST THEORIES

- Focus on consequences rather than the inherent goodness/evil of the actions and/or subjects
 - Consequences for me (*egoism*)?
 - Consequences for the Other (*altruism*)?
 - Consequences for everyone (*utilitarianism*)?
- What kind of actions produce good consequences?
 - Those that maximize pleasure?
 - Minimize pain?

NOZICK'S PLEASURE MACHINE

The thought experiment [\[edit \]](#)

Nozick asks us to imagine a machine that could give us whatever desirable or pleasurable experiences we could want. Psychologists have figured out a way to stimulate a person's brain to induce pleasurable experiences that the subject could not distinguish from those he would have apart from the machine. He then asks, if given the choice, would we prefer the machine to real life?

Nozick also believes that if pleasure were the only intrinsic value, people would have an overriding reason to be hooked up to an "experience machine," which would produce favorable sensations.

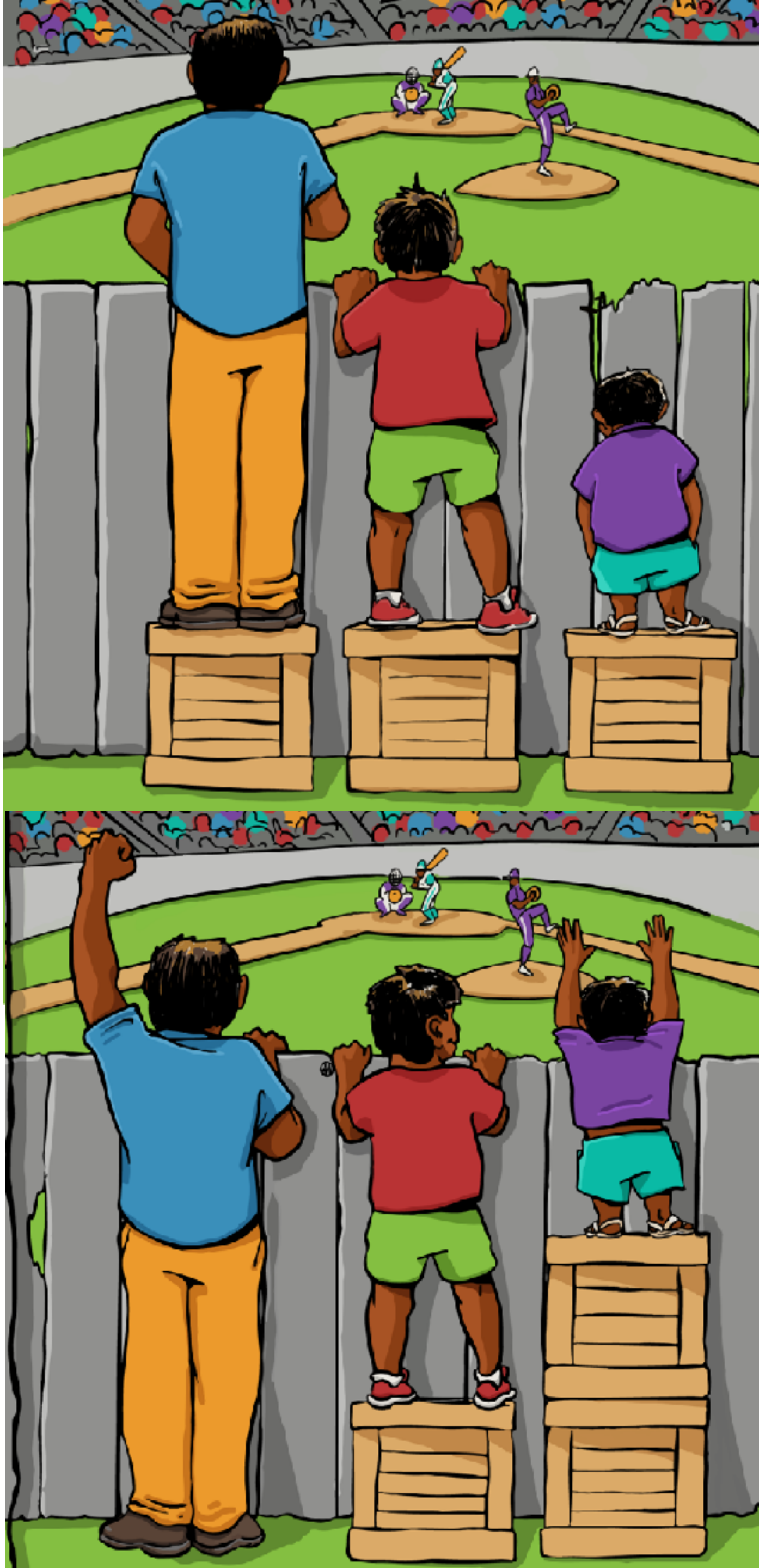


RELATIONAL ETHICS/ETHICS OF CARE

- Critique of the focus on "abstract principles" of conventional theories, and focus on personal relationships
- "Feminist ethics" – Critique of the focus on the "masculine" in conventional theories
- As an ethical theory and as a practice

CARING

A Relational Approach to Ethics and Moral Education



JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS

- "Every individual should get what s/he deserves"
- "Individuals should be treated the same, unless they differ in ways that are relevant to the situation in which they are involved"
- Different types of justice
 - Distributive justice
 - Retributive justice
- Rawls and Nozick

ETHICS IN PRACTICE

1. Awareness

2. Responsibility

3. Critical thinking

4. Action

(5. Reflection)



NÅGRA ETISKA BESLUTSMODELLER

- Göran Collstes beslutsmodell
- Autonomimatrisen
- EVIL

GÖRAN COLLSTES BESLUTSMODELL



- Problemformulering
- Informationssamlande
- Alternativställande
- Konsekvens- och handlingsbedömning
- Sannolikhetsbedömning
- Värdering
- Beslut
- (Handling)
- Utvärdering

Source: Göran Collste, Inledning till Etiken (1996)

Autonomy Matrix		All principles, values, interests, duties, feelings, needs etc. of all involved parts					
All reasonable alternative actions to solve the problem		Possibilities: Risks:	Possibilities: Risks:	Possibilities: Risks:	Possibilities: Risks:	Possibilities: Risks:	Possibilities: Risks:
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Source: Iordanis Kavathatzopoulos (UU)

EVIL

- Exit
- Voice
- Insubordination
- Loyalty

Source: Albert Hirschman (edited by Thomas Lennerfors)



INSTRUKTIONER GRUPPUPPGIFTER

- **GU 1: Autonoma fordon**
 - Utveckla en etisk algoritm för självkörande bilar som kan hantera olika typer av etiska dilemman. Algoritmen kan vara en formel, ett flödesschema, eller bara beskriven med text.
- **GU 2: Volkswagen och rationaliseringar**
 - Fundera kring ansvar i etiska frågor och hur aktörer genom rationaliseringar försöker fransäga sig ansvar.
- **Bonus:** Om ni har tid, hitta på/välj ett dilemma som vi kan fundera kring gemensamt mha valfri beslutsmodell