

Applying AI to Prevent Corruption

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I acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians of the lands upon which we meet today.

I honour Elders past, present and emerging and extend my respects to all Indigenous people who join us today.

"Prevention is better than cure."
Desiderius Erasmus



Behaviours that present a corruption risk in the workplace

1. Non-compliance with policies and procedures
2. Bullying and harassment, including sexual harassment
3. Mishandling and misuse of confidential information
4. Problems in hiring and screening new employees
5. Political influence on organisations owned or funded by government
6. Conflicts of interest arising from government partnerships with the private sector
7. Conflicts of interest arising from the movement of staff between the public and private sectors
8. Mismanagement or improper administration of grants and public funding
9. Biased or unethical procurement decisions
10. Improper lobbying of public sector employees and / or elected officials





The 1 FLAWED assumption



That ethical decision making is a rational, cognitive process

Therefore - unethical behaviour occurs due to:-

- Greed
- Poor Character
- Bad values

Bad People Do Bad Things

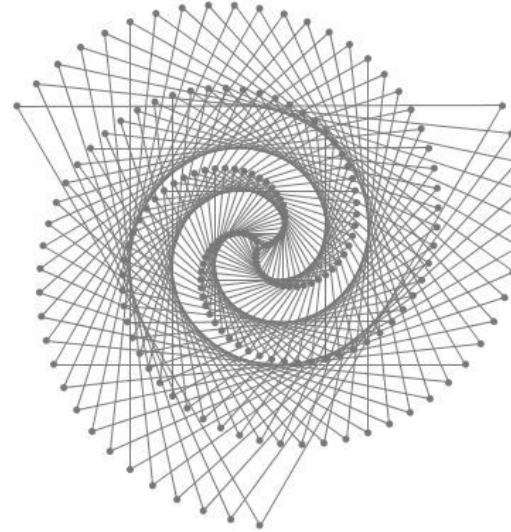


Implications: 1. Weed out the 'bad' apples 2. Re-educate on character and values 3. Establish strong deterrents

What happens if we remove the assumption?

Social Psychology Research

- We are delusional – **we are not as smart as we think we are**
- We suffer from self serving biases and perceptual blindness that cause us to miss ethical issues
- We over-estimate dispositional factors and under-estimate the impact of situational and contextual factors



Gradually then Suddenly

- Ethical disasters don't happen suddenly – **they happen over time** – gradually then suddenly

It's Emotive

- An initial 'bad' emotive decision starts the slide down the slippery slope

Criminology Research

- **Our rational mind protects our self identity**
- We use a series of flawed justifications to do this that neutralise the Values we espouse

Neuro-cognitive Science

- **Our brains are lazy** - Most of the time we are just pattern matching
- **Our mind works more like a lawyer defending a client than a scientist objectively assessing facts**



Why Drives Good People To Do Bad Things?

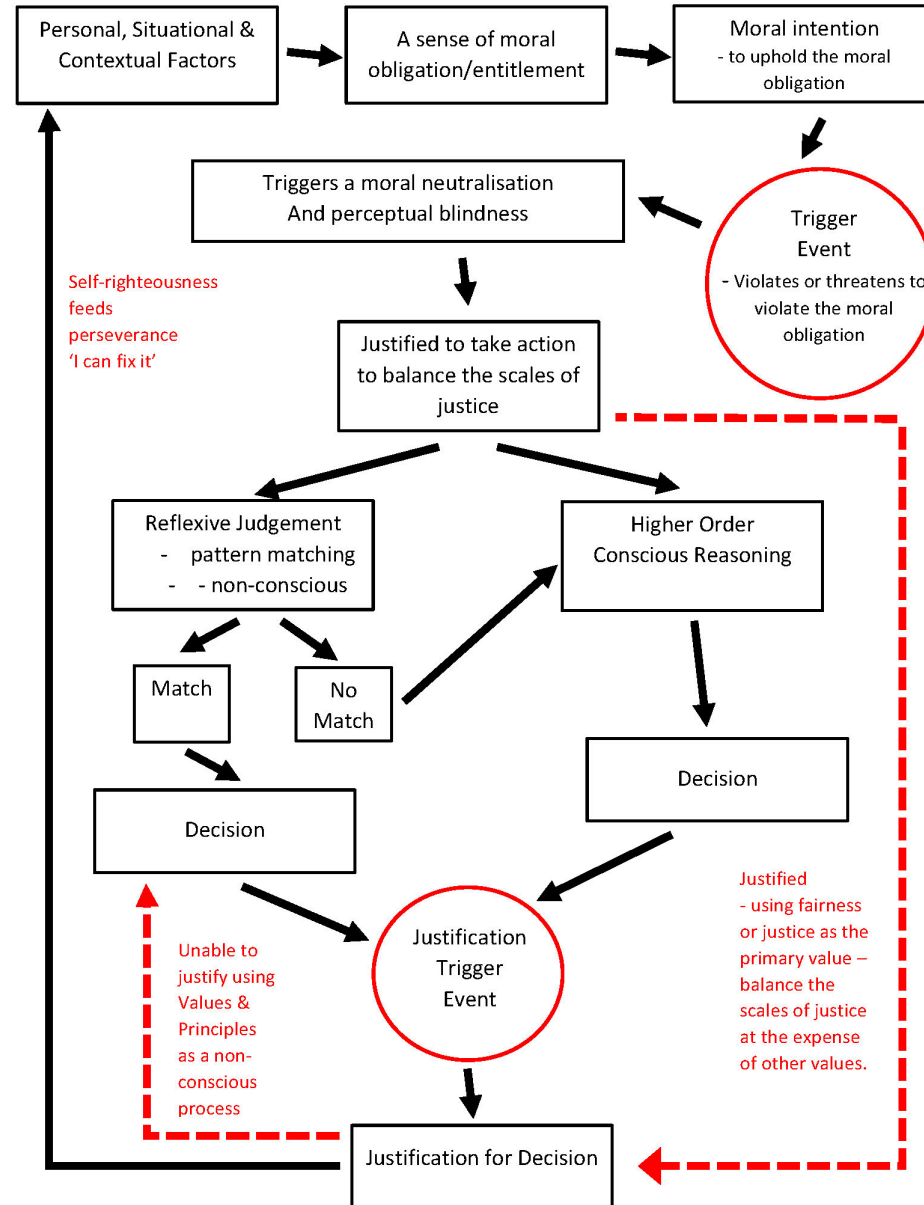
Good people do bad things because their faculty of self regulation is diminished by challenging personal, situational and contextual factors - A trigger event occurs that threatens their moral obligation - They perceive this event as unfair or unjust and feel compelled to act - They justify their actions using a flawed justification that neutralises their true Values - They then begin the slide down the slippery slope that they stay on because they believe they can fix it.

A Mechanistic Explanation



CAUSAL FACTOR MODEL OF UNETHICAL OUTCOMES

A.C.Ping 2015



- Stage #1**
A compulsion to ACT
- ↓
- Stage #2**
"I can fix it!"
- ↓
- Stage #3**
Self Medicated Delusion
- ↓
- Stage #4**
The Boiling Frog

How to Disrupt the process that leads to BAD outcomes?

#1

Red Flags

Personal factors

- Stress
- Sleep deprivation
- Financial stress
- Relationship issues
- Health issues

Situational Factors

- Bad blood
- Perceptions of unfairness or injustice
- Expediency – time pressure
- Misaligned goals/rewards

Contextual

- Cultural norms
- Dehumanisation
- Depersonalisation
- Group Think
- Obedience to authority

#2

Awareness of the 8 flawed justifications

1. It's not my responsibility
2. It's just this one little thing
3. It's not hurting anyone
4. You think that's bad but you should see what I have to deal with!
5. Everyone else is doing it
6. It's just business
7. I'm doing this for the company
8. I haven't got time for this



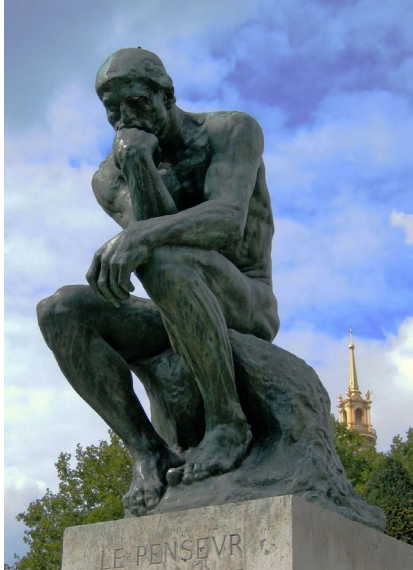
#3

Psycho-Social Safety



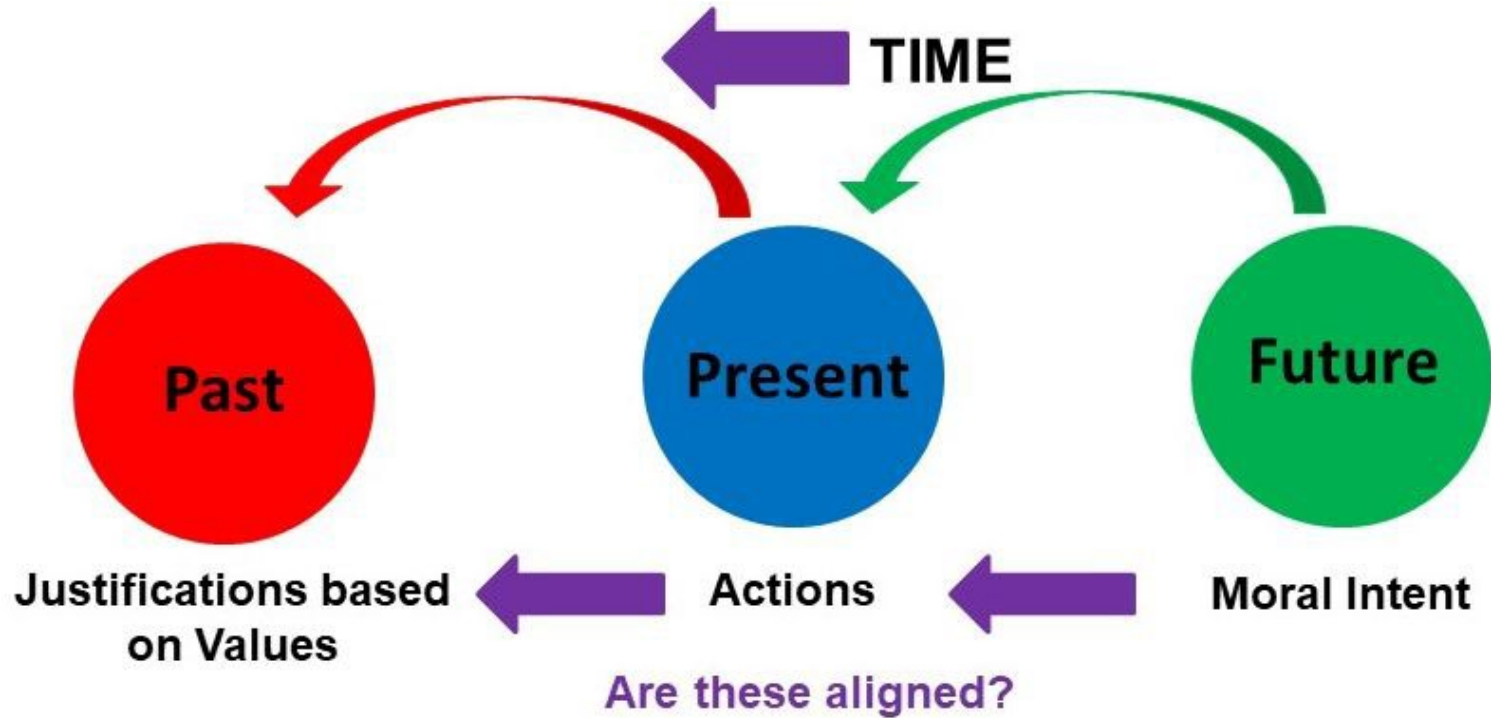
- The Bystander effect

What OUGHT we to do?
Be Intentional



Moral Intention Theory

Define, Enact and Protect Moral Intent



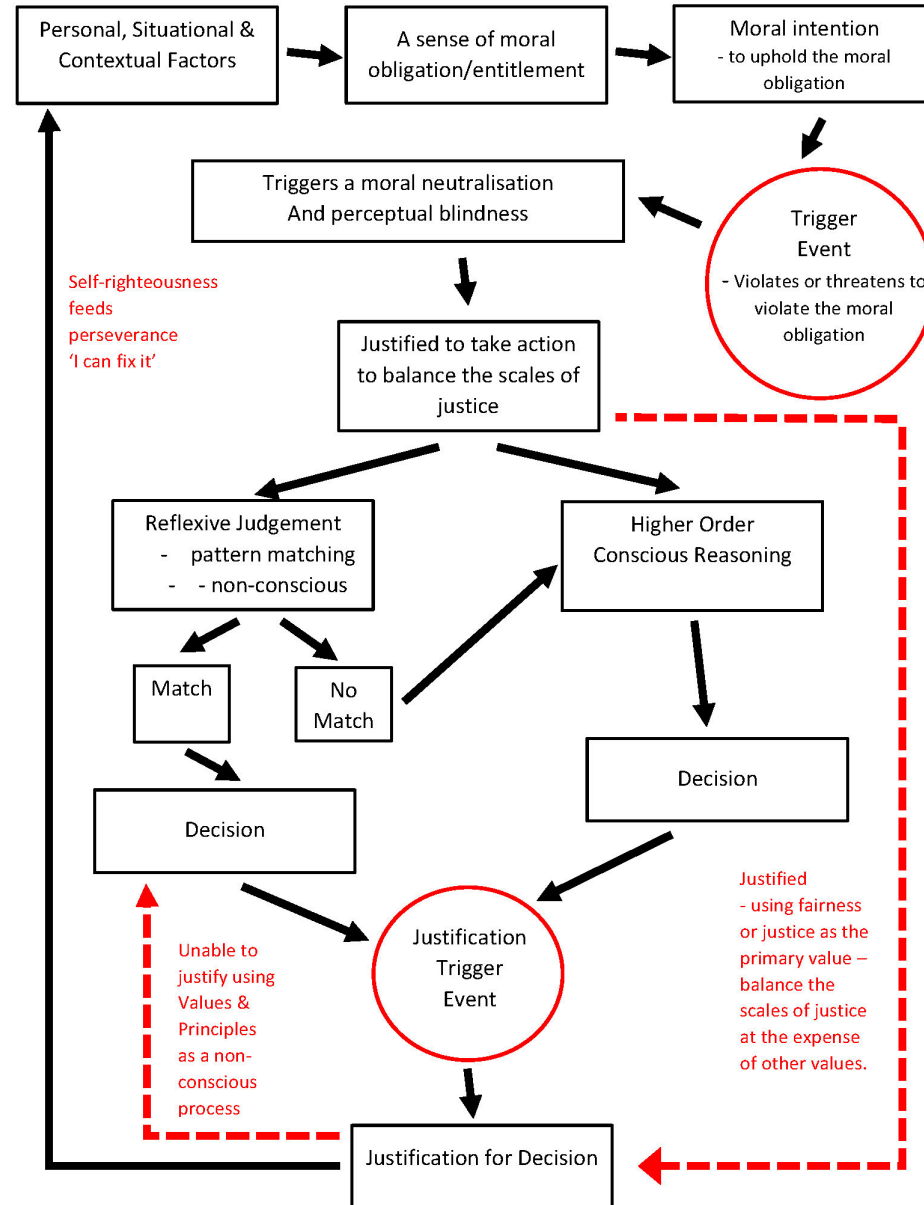
- #1**
Define moral intention
Using aspirational Values
- ↓
- #2**
Enact moral intention
By aligning actions to these Values
- ↓
- #3**
Protect moral intention
From flawed justifications that neutralise the Values

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CAUSAL FACTOR MODEL OF UNETHICAL OUTCOMES

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MIA (moral intention analyst)



Trained in 19 frameworks across 7 domains including:

- Causal Factor Model
- Moral Intention Theory
- Red Flad Taxonomy (over 100 items)
- Nine Core Values
 - Freedom, Honour, Patience, Truth, Impartiality, Equality, Unity, Empathy, Love
- Intentional Change Theory
- Complexity Theory
- The Bystander Effect



What can MIA do?

1. Ethics Case Study Analysis
 - Red flags, trigger event, flawed justifications, how to prevent happening again
2. Executive Proposal Analysis (Board Papers, Development proposals, Legislation justification)
 - Flawed justifications, alignment with Values, moral drift
3. User Moral Intention Assessment
 - Moral drift, Red flags
4. Conversation Transcript Analysis (Police, Security and Military body cam)
 - Values alignment, Red flags, Moral drift
5. AI System Analysis
 - Moral drift, optimization anxiety, edge cases, Value alignment, flawed justifications

For
GOOD or **EVIL**?
Empowerment or **Control**?
Love or **Fear**?





“The problems that exist in the world today cannot be solved by the level of thinking that created them.”
Albert Einstein



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Thank You



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