

● ● ● | Psychological Aspects
of Social Issues

Chapter 2
Objectivism, Subjectivism,
Relativism, and Emotivism

1

● ● ● | Outline/Overview

- Honor killing – examples and moral frameworks
- Objectivism
- Cultural Relativism
- Subjective Relativism
- Emotivism

2

● ● ● | Honor killing – examples
and moral frameworks

- Heshu Yones – text example
- Father disapproved of boyfriend
- Tried to kill self after murdering her



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● ● ● | Honor killing (cont.)

- Not an uncommon practice
- Incidents in North America
 - Dallas, TX, early 2008
 - Abdul, Amina, and Sarah Yaser Said



7

● ● ● | Honor killing (cont.)

- Not unique to Muslims
- Many incidents throughout N America
- UN data maybe 1000s annually
- Women who shame their family
- Countless other examples
 - Thoughts on these practices?
- If the society approves of the practice, it is morally right – what perspective?

8

● ● ● | Other perspectives

- Subjective relativism
- Emotivism
- Different perspectives in different situations
 - What sorts of moral decisions might be best handled by each perspective?
 - Non-negotiables?

9



Subjective relativism

- Action is right if I approve it, wrong if I disapprove it
- No objective “right or wrong”
- Right or wrong according to individuals
- Problems with this perspective?
 1. Implies moral infallibility
 2. No moral disagreements

10



Cultural relativism

- Many cultures have practices that other cultures find morally repugnant
- Eating habits can become a moral issue
- Problems
 1. Logical inconsistency
 2. Implies moral infallibility
 3. Social reformers are always wrong
- rejecting cultural relativism as tolerance

11



Emotivism

- Non-cognitivist view
- Simply expressing an emotion or an attitude
- Makes disagreements in the usual sense impossible - no moral facts to disagree about.
- Eliminates reasons for moral judgments
- Good and bad (or evil) cease to exist
 - expressions of personal preference

14
