

Embodied Cognition: Morality and Risk-Taking

Dr. Elizabeth Gross, Hannah Edwards '22, Taylor Nicole Heddings '21

In an embodied framework of psychology, the field has investigated the extent to which abstract cognitive concepts, such as morality, have been influenced by physiological factors, such as disgust and loss aversion. For example, theories of morality suggest that morality is strongly influenced by the loss or protection of resources. This suggests that risk-taking, which signals a potential loss of resources, should result in stronger judgments of morality, and vice versa. If disgust sensitivity is also perceived as a potential loss of resources-disgust is an emotion that signals potential bodily harm- then disgust sensitivity will also correlate with risk taking and morality judgments.

