Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: Making Morality Impartial: An Experimental Investigation of the Veil of Ignorance

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Project abstract:

We are living in an age of increased moral disagreement and polarization. One explanation for this trend is partiality. People on one or both sides of contested social issue (abortion, COVID-19, climate change, etc.) do not give equal or adequate weight to the interests of all those concerned. Their views are based on bias or prejudice. Finding ways of increasing impartiality may therefore be one of the most important tasks that humanity currently faces. My project attempts to contribute to this task. In particular, I will investigate one particular device that philosophers have used to promote impartial reasoning, namely the so called "veil of ignorance" thought experiment — an attempt to abstract from knowledge about one's gender, race, income and other morally irrelevant characteristics that might distort one's judgments.

Previous research has only focused on people's actual choices behind the veil of ignorance. My project, in contrast, will investigate the methodological appropriateness of this thought experiment. (1) How robust is the VOI (i.e. to what extent are the judgments people arrive at by engaging in the thought experiment influenced by irrelevant factors)? (2) How effective is the VOI (i.e. to what extent does it fulfill the function it was supposed to fulfill)? (3) What are the larger philosophical implications of these findings?

The framework that I will use in investigating these questions is that of experimental philosophy. That is, I will run empirical studies on people's intuitions to inform philosophical argumentation. Being supervised by leading experts at the Universities of Tokyo (outgoing phase), Graz (return phase), Oxford (secondment) and Auckland (secondment), my research has the potential to significantly impact a number of debates in both philosophy and psychology — and hopefully, it can also make a small contribution to making morality more impartial in public discourse.

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Making Morality Impartial: An Experimental Investigation of the Veil of Ignorance

Data Summary

Will you re-use any existing data and what will you re-use it for?

No existing data will be re-used (beyond referring to published results by other authors).

What types and formats of data will the project generate or re-use?

The project will generate a variety of psychological data surrounding the veil of ignorance thought experiment, most importantly data about (1) lay people's and philosophers' susceptibility to cognitive biases in engaging in this thought experiment, and (2) the thought experiments' effectiveness in increasing impartiality in lay people and philosophers. Demographic data, including data about participants' income, wealth, education, health status, political orientation and religion, will be collected too. Most of the generated data will be quantitative (self-report surveys about participants' philosophical intuitions) but some will be qualitative as well (e.g., open-ended survey questions or short interviews). The data will be stored in .xls or .csv formats. File names will include the project acronym as well as the date of data collection.

What is the purpose of the data generation or re-use and its relation to the objectives of the project?

All data will relate to the project's research questions, as outlined in the project proposal: (1) How robust is the VOI (i.e., to what extent are the judgments people arrive at by engaging in the thought experiment (easily or overly) influenced by irrelevant factors)? (2) How effective is the VOI (i.e., to what extent does it fulfill the (epistemic or illustrative) function it was supposed to fulfill)? (3) What are the larger philosophical implications of the project's findings of about the robustness and effectivity of the VOI? The purpose of data generation is to answer these questions as well as some additional questions that are related to them.

What is the expected size of the data that you intend to generate or re-use?

I expect that the total amount of data (mostly .xls, .csv, .pdf and .sav files) will be < 100 MB, including all project outputs such as journal articles.

What is the origin/provenance of the data, either generated or re-used?

Most of the project's empirical studies will be designed in Qualtrics, an online survey software. Participants of the studies will be recruited from online crowdsourcing pools such as Prolific Academic,

mostly in the US. For their time and effort all participants will be compensated at an hourly rate that is above the national minimal income.

To whom might your data be useful ('data utility'), outside your project?

The veil of ignorance thought experiment has been highly prominent in philosophy, at least since Rawls' publication of *A Theory of Justice* in 1971, and has recently also been increasingly investigated by empirical researchers, such as experimental economists and psychologists. I therefore expect that the generated data will be of high usefulness outside of the project. In particular, it will be useful to philosophers who have worked on or with the veil of ignorance thought experiment (it will provide information on whether and how the thought experiment may be justifiably employed in philosophical argumentation) and to empirical scientists interested in moral cognition and decision-making (it will provide information of the thought experiment's reliability and effectiveness).

FAIR data

2.1.   Making data findable, including provisions for metadata: Will data be identified by a persistent identifier?

All of the project's data will be uploaded to the Open Science Framework (www.osf.io). OSF allows the creation of DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers) for "projects", meaning studies or sets of studies. I will create such DOIs for each set of studies that will be conducted. In addition, all of the resulting journal articles will be identified by DOIs as well.

2.1.   Making data findable, including provisions for metadata: Will rich metadata be provided to allow discovery? What metadata will be created? What disciplinary or general standards will be followed? In case metadata standards do not exist in your discipline, please outline what type of metadata will be created and how.

The project's above-mentioned OSF pages will display the following metadata:
1 Study Description
2 Resource type
3 Resource language
4 Date created
5 Date modified
6 Date registered
7 Subjects
8 Tags
In addition, all of the project's pre-prints and journal articles will involve metadata as well, including title, author names, abstract, keywords, and ORCID numbers. This will be in line with standards for metadata in philosophy and psychology, as well as other disciplines.

2.1.   Making data findable, including provisions for metadata: Will search keywords be

provided in the metadata to optimize the possibility for discovery and then potential re-use?

Yes, keywords (tags) will be provided on the project's OSF pages as well as in the pre-prints of journal articles.

2.1.   Making data findable, including provisions for metadata: Will metadata be offered in such a way that it can be harvested and indexed?

Yes, OSF allows downloading metadata as JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) files and both the project's OSF pages and publications, including their meta-data, will be indexed by search engines such as Google.

2.2. Making data accessible - Repository: Will the data be deposited in a trusted repository?

Yes, data will be made available on OSF in xls, csv, pdf, sav or similar formats. Pre-prints of all journal articles will be made available on OSF, PsyArXiv or ResearchGate shortly after completion as well.

2.2. Making data accessible - Repository: Have you explored appropriate arrangements with the identified repository where your data will be deposited?

OSF is a free and open source project management tool. I have an account, registered under my name, which I have used for several years.

2.2. Making data accessible - Repository: Does the repository ensure that the data is assigned an identifier? Will the repository resolve the identifier to a digital object?

Yes, as explained above, all of the project's OSF sets of studies will be assigned DOIs.

2.2.   Making data accessible - Data:
Will all data be made openly available? If certain datasets cannot be shared (or need to be shared under restricted access conditions), explain why, clearly separating legal and contractual reasons from intentional restrictions. Note that in multi-beneficiary projects it is also possible for specific beneficiaries to keep their data closed if opening their data goes against their legitimate interests or other constraints as per the Grant Agreement.

Yes, all data will be made openly available in the ways outlined above. Some qualitative data may be de-identified to protect the anonymity of research participants, based on de-identification rules that are developed prior to the respective studies. For example, if participants provide information about their age or location in the course of a qualitative study this data might be removed prior to the data being made openly available.

2.2.   Making data accessible - Data:

If an embargo is applied to give time to publish or seek protection of the intellectual property (e.g. patents), specify why and how long this will apply, bearing in mind that research data should be made available as soon as possible.

No embargos will be applied.

2.2.   Making data accessible - Data:

Will the data be accessible through a free and standardized access protocol?

All data will be accessible through free standardized protocols ensured by OSF.

2.2.   Making data accessible - Data:

If there are restrictions on use, how will access be provided to the data, both during and after the end of the project?

There will be no restrictions on use (except attribution of the data creator).

2.2.   Making data accessible - Data:

How will the identity of the person accessing the data be ascertained?

The identity of the person accessing the data will not be ascertained.

2.2.   Making data accessible - Data:

Is there a need for a data access committee (e.g. to evaluate/approve access requests to personal/sensitive data)?

There is no need for a data access committee.

2.2.   Making data accessible - Metadata:

Will metadata be made openly available and licenced under a public domain dedication CC0, as per the Grant Agreement? If not, please clarify why. Will metadata contain information to enable the user to access the data?

Metadata will be made openly available both on OSF as well as in relation to pre-prints and journal articles. It will involve enough information to enable the users to access the data.

2.2.   Making data accessible - Metadata:

How long will the data remain available and findable? Will metadata be guaranteed to remain available after data is no longer available?

OSF states that their preservation fund is sufficient for 50+ years of read access hosting at present costs. On that basis it can be guaranteed that the data and metadata, as stored on OSF, will remain available and findable for ten years, at the very least, most likely for much longer. Pre-prints and journal articles will be available and findable on repository and journal websites for a minimum of ten years as well.

2.2. Making data accessible - Metadata:
Will documentation or reference about any software be needed to access or read the data be included? Will it be possible to include the relevant software (e.g. in open source code)?

Almost all uploaded files will be such that they can be opened by freely available software, e.g., Adobe Acrobat PDF Reader (.pdf), Text Editor (.txt) or Google Sheets (.csv, .xls). Even where other, less common file formats might be use (e.g., .r, .sav), a quick Google search can reveal the software that is needed to access or read the data. Documentation or reference about this software therefore will not be needed.

2.3. Making data interoperable:
What data and metadata vocabularies, standards, formats or methodologies will you follow to make your data interoperable to allow data exchange and re-use within and across disciplines? Will you follow community-endorsed interoperability best practices? Which ones?

The project will use identifiers (DOI), a repository (OSF), file formats (.pdf, .xls, .csv, etc.), methodologies (inferential statistics, deductive and inductive arguments, etc.), etc. which are widely used in the humanities and social sciences to allow data exchange and re-use within and across disciplines. It will follow recommendations that have been endorsed by many authors and agencies in these areas, for example by the American Psychological Association.

2.3. Making data interoperable:
In case it is unavoidable that you use uncommon or generate project specific ontologies or vocabularies, will you provide mappings to more commonly used ontologies? Will you openly publish the generated ontologies or vocabularies to allow reusing, refining or extending them?

No uncommon or project specific ontologies or vocabularies will be used.

2.3. Making data interoperable:
Will your data include qualified references[1] to other data (e.g. other data from your project, or datasets from previous research)?

[1] *A qualified reference is a cross-reference that explains its intent. For example, X is*

regulator of Y is a much more qualified reference than X is associated with Y, or X see also Y. The goal therefore is to create as many meaningful links as possible between (meta)data resources to enrich the contextual knowledge about the data. (Source: https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/i3-metadata-include-qualified-references-metadata/)

The data may include qualified references to other data that has been collected in the project. If this is the case (for example, if follow-up studies are conducted to be better able to evaluate explanations of data or cross-cultural research is conducted to test previous findings' generalizability across different countries) then the scientific links between the datasets will be described on OSF as well as in the resulting pre-prints and journal articles.

2.4.   Increase data re-use:
How will you provide documentation needed to validate data analysis and facilitate data re-use (e.g. readme files with information on methodology, codebooks, data cleaning, analyses, variable definitions, units of measurement, etc.)?

Each study will be pre-registered on OSF. The pre-registration will provide detailed information about the studies' experimental design, analyses, rules for excluding participants, etc. In shortened form, much of this information will be included in the resulting pre-prints and journal articles as well. Finally, I will upload all questionnaires in full (in the form of qualtrics-generated pdfs) on OSF to allow other researchers to check and potentially re-use the studies' materials, such as specific vignettes and questions.

2.4.   Increase data re-use:
Will your data be made freely available in the public domain to permit the widest re-use possible? Will your data be licensed using standard reuse licenses, in line with the obligations set out in the Grant Agreement?

All data will be made freely available in the public domain via OSF. It will be licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Public License. Pre-prints and journal articles will be open access (see below).

2.4.   Increase data re-use:
Will the data produced in the project be useable by third parties, in particular after the end of the project?

Yes, the data will remain on OSF for the period specified above, i.e., for a minimum of ten years. Third parties can download the data from there and use it.

2.4.   Increase data re-use:
Will the provenance of the data be thoroughly documented using the appropriate standards?

Yes, the provenance of the data will be documented according to the common standards in psychology and experimental philosophy, i.e., studies will be reported in a journal article which

involves a dedicated "Participants" section, specifying how participants were recruited, what number of participants were recruited, why this number of participants was recruited, who the participants were (demographic data), etc.

2.4. Increase data re-use:
Describe all relevant data quality assurance processes.

All of the project's studies will involve extensive pre-tests, so as to identify potential improvements of their designs before they are actually conducted. To prevent "insufficient effort responding" (e.g., Huang et al. 2012) we will keep surveys as short and simple as possible and only accept participants who have an approval rate above 95% in online crowdsourcing recruitment. Participants who nevertheless show insufficient effort will be identified by a number of measures, such as attention checks, comprehension checks and open-ended questions, and subsequently excluded from analysis (Pölzler 2022). To ensure a high rate of replicability we will make sure to have at least 90% power for effects of interest, d = 0.4.

2.4. Increase data re-use:
Further to the FAIR principles, DMPs should also address research outputs other than data, and should carefully consider aspects related to the allocation of resources, data security and ethical aspects.

The project will not lead to other research outputs than data, as well as academic publications based on that data.

Other research outputs

In addition to the management of data, beneficiaries should also consider and plan for the management of other research outputs that may be generated or re-used throughout their projects. Such outputs can be either digital (e.g. software, workflows, protocols, models, etc.) or physical (e.g. new materials, antibodies, reagents, samples, etc.).

The project will not lead to other research outputs than data, as well as academic publications based on that data.

Beneficiaries should consider which of the questions pertaining to FAIR data above, can apply to the management of other research outputs, and should strive to provide sufficient detail on how their research outputs will be managed and shared, or made available for re-use, in line with the FAIR principles.

As said, additional research output is not expected. In the unlikely event that it will be generated after all I will make sure that this output will be managed and shared, or made available for re-use, in line with the FAIR principles.

Allocation of resources

What will the costs be for making data or other research outputs FAIR in your project (e.g. direct and indirect costs related to storage, archiving, re-use, security, etc.) ?

There will be no direct costs for making data or other research outputs FAIR. Data will be stored in OSF, which is free to use. Journal articles can be made open access through Austria's agreements with leading academic publishers.

How will these be covered? Note that costs related to research data/output management are eligible as part of the Horizon Europe grant (if compliant with the Grant Agreement conditions)

There will be no direct costs.

Who will be responsible for data management in your project?

The person responsible for data management is the project leader, i.e., Thomas Pölzler.

How will long term preservation be ensured? Discuss the necessary resources to accomplish this (costs and potential value, who decides and how, what data will be kept and for how long)?

All data will be stored in OSF for a minimum of ten years. No additional resources are necessary to accomplish this.

Data security

What provisions are or will be in place for data security (including data recovery as well as secure storage/archiving and transfer of sensitive data)?

In addition to being stored in OSF, all data will also be stored on a USB flash drive that will be managed by the project leader at the location at which the research currently takes place (Tokyo, Oxford, Wellington or Graz). After the end of the project the flash drive will be stored at the Department of Philosophy of the University of Graz. If the project collects sensitive data then this data will be sufficiently anonymized before being uploaded to OSF. The original sensitive data, stored on the USB flash drive, will be password protected. It can only be accessed by the project leader and co-authors who have collaborated in generating and analysing the data.

Ethics

Are there, or could there be, any ethics or legal issues that can have an impact on data sharing? These can also be discussed in the context of the ethics review. If relevant, include references to ethics deliverables and ethics chapter in the Description of the Action (DoA).

The only potential limitation to data-sharing could arise in the context of potential qualitative research which reveals demographic facts that might be used to identify participants. In the case of such research I will proceed as described above: de-identify the data (e.g., exclude references to a participant's age or location) before uploading it to OSF, and, upon completion of the research, store the original data on a password-protected section of the above-mentioned flash-drive which can only be accessed by contributing researchers.

Will informed consent for data sharing and long term preservation be included in questionnaires dealing with personal data?

Yes, each study will involve a consent page. Participants will be asked to agree to the following claims before they can complete the studies:

(1) I agree that my personal data (including demographic information), which is collected anonymously during this study, is processed by the University of Graz by means of statistical data analysis for research purposes and used to publish scientific papers.

(2) I agree that my anonymized data will be made available in open databases (e.g. in the Open Science Framework; https://osf.io/) indefinitely for the purpose of scientific transparency.

(3) I can withdraw my consent to the processing of my data at any time by writing to Dr. Thomas Pölzler, thomas.poelzler@uni-graz.at, University of Graz, Attemsgasse 25/II, 8010 Graz. The revocation does not affect the legality of the data processed until the revocation.

(4) I have read the above instructions and I agree to participate. I know that I can cancel my participation at any time without giving reasons.

Other issues

Do you, or will you, make use of other national/funder/sectorial/departmental procedures for data management? If yes, which ones (please list and briefly describe them)?

I will not make use of any other procedure for data management.