

# Survey: Moral Foundations Questionnaire -2 (MFQ-2)

Why do you care about some virtues and issues more than others? This survey gives you a broad overview of your morals.

**The scale you completed** was the "Moral Foundations Questionnaire-2" developed by Mohammad Atari, Jonathan Haidt, Jesse Graham, and Morteza Dehghani at the University of Southern California, New York University, and the University of Utah.

**The scale is a measure** of your reliance on and endorsement of six moral concerns that seem to be found across cultures:

1. Care
2. Equality
3. Proportionality
4. Loyalty
5. Authority
6. Purity

**The idea behind the scale** is that human morality is the result of biological and cultural evolutionary processes that made human beings very sensitive to many different (and often competing) issues. Some of these issues are about treating other individuals well and not harming them (Care). Some issues are about equal distribution of resources in the society (Equality) and some concern fairness in terms of merit and deservingness (Proportionality). Other issues are about how to be a good member of a group (Loyalty), respect different kinds of authorities (Authority), or being mindful of contamination both physically and spiritually (Purity). Atari and colleagues (2021) have found that political liberals generally place a higher value on Care and Equality; they are very concerned about issues of harm, inequality, and exploitation. Political conservatives, on the other hand, generally score slightly lower on Care and Equality items. Proportionality is a less political foundation but seems to slightly more important for conservatives. The bigger difference between liberals and conservatives seems to be that conservatives score slightly higher on the Loyalty foundation, and much higher on the Authority and Purity foundations.

This difference seems to explain many of the most contentious issues in the culture war. For example, liberals support legalizing gay marriage (for social equality and being compassionate), whereas many conservatives are reluctant to change the nature of marriage and the traditional family structure, basic building blocks of society.

Conservatives are more likely to favor practices that increase order and respect (e.g., spanking, mandatory pledge of allegiance), whereas liberals often oppose these practices as being violent or coercive. Conservatives tend to see fairness in merit and equality of opportunity, but liberals tend to consider equality of outcomes as fairness.

To learn more about this scale and the study of morality, you can contact Mohammad Atari ([atari@usc.edu](mailto:atari@usc.edu)) or Morteza Dehghani ([mdehghan@usc.edu](mailto:mdehghan@usc.edu)).



