

Passing the Mirror Test and the Wrong of Pain
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How would you explain why causing harm is bad? There are 3 different perspective from which to assess this harm: the victim, the perpetrator, an observer. Which perspective does the article use to explain why harm is bad? Do the other perspectives have anything they can tell us about why harm is bad?

Do you think memory is necessary for explaining why harm is bad? Has no objectionable harm occurred when we cause momentary pain in an animal without the capacity to remember?

Do you think the mirror test accurately identifies whether an animal has a sense of self? Do you think the mirror test should be used to determine whether an animal is part of our moral community (that is, has rights and should not be harmed)?

Scientific discoveries have broadened our understanding of consciousness, and this, in turn, has extended the moral community to include more non-human animals. Was our previous treatment of these animals unjust or is it only unjust to mistreat these animals when our actions are in conflict with our current science?