

Home > Journal > Social Sciences & Humanities > PSYCH

[Indexing](#) [View Papers](#) [Aims & Scope](#) [Editorial Board](#) [Guideline](#) [Article Processing Charges](#)

PSYCH > Vol.2 No.2, April 2011

OPEN ACCESS

## Eliciting Guilty Feelings: A Preliminary Study Differentiating Deontological and Altruistic Guilt

PDF (Size: 291KB) PP. 98-102 DOI: 10.4236/psych.2011.22016

### Author(s)

Barbara Basile, Francesco Mancini

### ABSTRACT

Guilt has been identified as both an intrapsychic and an interpersonal emotion. The current study presents evidence of the existence of two senses of guilt, deontological and altruistic guilt, induced through different experimental paradigms. Deontological guilt evolves from having slighted moral authority or norms, while altruistic guilt arises from selfish behavior and the distress of others. We hypothesize that specific stimuli would evoke, separately, deontological guilt and altruistic/interpersonal guilt feelings. Two different procedures were used to test our hypothesis, adding two emotions as control conditions (i.e. anger and sadness). Results clearly indicate that two different guilt emotions can be evoked separately, by appropriate stimulation. Findings and possible clinical implications are discussed.

### KEYWORDS

Guilt, Deontological Guilt, Altruistic Guilt, Emotions

### Cite this paper

Basile, B. & Mancini, F. (2011). Eliciting Guilty Feelings: A Preliminary Study Differentiating Deontological and Altruistic Guilt. *Psychology*, 2, 98-102. doi: 10.4236/psych.2011.22016.

### References

- [1] Baumeister, R. F., Stillwell, A. S., & Heatherton, T. F. (1994). Guilt: An interpersonal approach. *Psychological Bulletin*, 115, 243-267. doi:10.1037/0033-2909.115.2.243
- [2] Basile B., Mancini F., Macaluso E., Caltagirone C., Frackowiak R. S., & Bozzali M. (2011). Deontological and altruistic guilt: Evidence for distinct neurobiological substrates. *Human Brain Mapping*, 32, 229-239.
- [3] De Hooge, I. E., Zeelenberg, M. & Breugelmans, S. M. (2007). Moral sentiments and cooperation: Differential influences of shame and guilt. *Cognition & Emotion*, 21, 1025-1042. doi: 10.1080/02699930600980874
- [4] Ekman, P. & Friesen, W. V. (1976). *Pictures of Facial Affect*. Palo Alto: Consulting.
- [5] Esherick, M., O' Connor, L. E., Berry, J. W., & Weiss, J. (1999, Unpublished). The role of guilt in obsessions and compulsions.
- [6] Frank, R.H. (1988). *Passions within reason: The strategic role of the emotions*. New York: Norton.
- [7] Hoffman, M. L. (1981). Is altruism part of human nature? *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 40, 121-137. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.40.1.121
- [8] Hoffman, M. L. (1987). The contribution of empathy to justice and moral judgment. In N. Eisenberg and J. Strayer (Eds.), *Empathy and its development* (pp. 47-80). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- [9] Izard, C. E. (1977). *Human Emotions*. New York: Plenum Press.
- [10] Ketelaar, T. (2004). Ancestral emotions, current decisions: Using evolutionary game theory to

- [Open Special Issues](#)
- [Published Special Issues](#)
- [Special Issues Guideline](#)

[PSYCH Subscription](#)

[Most popular papers in PSYCH](#)

[About PSYCH News](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Recommend to Peers](#)

[Recommend to Library](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Downloads: 247,360

Visits: 543,553

[Sponsors >>](#)

explore the role of emotions in decision-making. In C. Crawford & C. Salmon (Eds.), *Evolutionary psychology, public policy and personal decisions* (pp. 145-163). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Inc.

- [11] Lewis, H. B. (1971). *Shame and guilt in neurosis*. New York: International Universities Press.
- [12] Lopatka, C. & Rachman, S. (1995). Perceived responsibility and compulsive checking: an experimental analysis. *Behaviour Research and Therapy*, 33, 673-684. doi:10.1016/0005-7967(94)00089-3
- [13] Mosher, D. L. (1965). Interaction of fear and guilt in inhibiting unacceptable behavior. *Journal of Consulting Psychology*, 29, 161-167. doi:10.1037/h0021748
- [14] Mosher, D. L. (1966). The development and multitrait-multimethod analysis of three measures of three aspects of guilt. *Journal of Consulting Psychology*, 30, 25-29. doi:10.1037/h0022905
- [15] Monteith, M. J. (1993). Self-regulation of stereotypical responses: Implications for progress in prejudice reduction. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 65, 469-485. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.65.3.469
- [16] Miller, W. I. (1997). *The anatomy of disgust*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- [17] Mancini, F. (2008). I sensi di colpa altruistico e deontologico. *Cognitivismo Clinico*, 5, 123-144.
- [18] Niedenthal, P. M., Tangney, J. P., & Gavanski, I. (1994). "If only I weren't" versus "If only I hadn't": Distinguishing shame and guilt in counterfactual thinking. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 67, 585-595. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.67.4.585
- [19] O' Connor, L. E., Berry, J. W., Weiss, J., & Gilbert, P. (2002). Guilt, fear, submission, and empathy in depression. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 71, 19-27. doi:10.1016/S0165-0327(01)00408-6
- [20] Piers, G. & Singer, M. (1971). *Shame and Guilt: A Psychoanalytic and Cultural Study*. New York: Norton.
- [21] Roseman, I. J., Wiest, C. & Swartz, T. S. (1994). Phenomenology, Behaviors, and Goals Differentiate Discrete Emotions. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 67, 206-221. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.67.2.206
- [22] Smith, A. (1759). *The theory of moral sentiments*. London: A. Miller.
- [23] Shafran, R. (1997). The manipulation of responsibility in obsessive-compulsive disorder. *British Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 36, 397-407.
- [24] Tangney, J. P. (1999). The self-conscious emotions: Shame, guilt, embarrassment and pride. In T. Dalgleish and M. J. Power (Eds.), *Handbook of cognition and emotion* (pp. 541-568). New York: John Wiley & Sons.
- [25] Tangney, J. P. & Dearing, R. L. (2002). *Shame and guilt*. New York: Guilford Press.
- [26] Tilghman-Osborne C., Cole, D. A., & Felton, J. W. (2010). Definition and measurement of guilt: Implications for clinical research and practice. *Clinical and Psychological Review*, 30, 536-546. doi:10.1016/j.cpr.2010.03.007
- [27] Tangney, J. P., Stuewig, J., & Mashek, D. J. (2007). Moral emotions and moral behavior. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 58, 345-72. doi:10.1146/annurev.psych.56.091103.070145
- [28] Tangney, J. P. (1991). Moral affect: The good, the bad, and the ugly. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 61, 598-607. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.61.4.598