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Moral Judgment and Counterfactual Reasoning

ABSTRACT: A series of recent studies show that people's moral judgments can have surprising effects on their intuitions about what might seem to be straightforwardly factual issues (including intention, causation and freedom). I present a new explanation of these effects, which draws on a claim about people's *counterfactual reasoning*. For each of the effects, we tested this explanation both by measuring and by manipulating the relevant counterfactuals.