Interest in moral cognition has grown tremendously over the last twenty years. During this time, we have learned a great deal about the mechanisms of moral judgment, their evolutionary and developmental origins, the personality factors and social contexts that promote pro-social behavior, and more. Yet, morality is too complex a phenomenon to be understood by any one field alone: it requires the perspectives of diverse disciplines to succeed. And, reciprocally, moral psychology has much to offer them in return.

This special issue will highlight the ways in which morality serves as a “hub” connecting diverse areas of study. We seek contributions that draw attention to the essential give-and-take between morality and neighboring fields, whether other areas of social cognition, other sub-disciplines of psychology, or other disciplines beyond psychology. We seek contributions from within and beyond moral psychology. And, we seek two kinds of contributors: both “moral psychologists” who have an important message for other fields, and also contributors who do not consider themselves “moral psychologists” at all, but who have important perspectives to offer the field.

We next list a few examples of topics that might fit this theme. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list, but a few inspirational examples; we hope to receive contributions on topics not represented among these few examples at all.

* What is the structure and function of moral emotions, such as guilt?

* How does morality influence the perception of personal identity—one’s own, or that of social partners?

* How is our understanding of moral judgment influenced by its developmental origins or its neural basis?

* What is the scope and origin of cross-cultural diversity in moral values?

* How does morality affect processes of “rational choice” as traditionally understood in economics?

* What is the relationship between moral psychology and religious beliefs, practices, or institutions?

* What role does morality play in perceptions of political issues?

Again, these are intended as illustrative examples—we are excited to receive papers that highlight other, very different areas of inquiry as well. The essential goal of any submission, however, is to describe some insight that only arises when moral psychology is treated as a “hub” that connects different areas of study. We envision that most papers would use new data to demonstrate how moral psychology connects with other areas and what unique insights arise.
from considering this connection. However, we also anticipate being able to include several theoretical papers.

And now for the logistical details you all have been waiting for with bated breath:

Who: Hopefully you as authors! The guest editors are Larisa Heiphetz (lah2201@columbia.edu) and Fiery Cushman (cushman@fas.harvard.edu). We are putting our e-mail addresses here because we encourage you to contact us if you want to check on whether your idea fits the scope of the special issue before writing an entire paper about it or if you have any other questions. Submitting authors may be contacted to serve as reviewers for the special issue.

What and Where: Please submit your full manuscript through the Social Cognition submission portal at socog.msubmit.net/cgi-bin/main.plex. Please make sure to select our special issue during the submission process. We are not soliciting letters of intent, but we are happy to answer questions if you want to chat before submitting your manuscript. The entire file can be a maximum of 35 double-spaced pages, including title page, abstract, references, anything you want to include in your paper.

When: All manuscripts must be submitted by November 15th, 2019. After this date, the guest editors will send appropriate manuscripts for external review.

We look forward to answering your questions and receiving your submissions!

Happy summer,
Larisa and Fiery