

Ethics: Appetizer

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TOC

- What is ethics?
- Ethics today
- Ethics and Science



What is ethics?

- There is no single conception of ethics.
 - Our understanding of ethics has changed repeatedly throughout history.
- Ethics as a man-made discipline
 - There have been ethical problems since the beginning

➤ There are different concepts of ethics; ethics is not morals



Ethics

- Goes back to the Greek word ethos
 - Common customs and traditions
 - People have always lived within certain customs and habits
 - Decency and customs are conveyed by the respective society
 - Deviations from these norms were considered immoral
 - Character, for the basic attitude of the virtuous
 - Valuable member of the community
- Antique ethics (e.g. Aristoteles, Thomas von Aquin,...)
- Helpful to know different ethical principles
- Word meaning: habit, custom



Modern Ethics

- Switching to the "why" question
 - Systematic research into causal relationships
 - Reasons, motives and causes
 - Acting subject in the foreground → ethical action in the foreground
- „The task of ethics is to ask what reasonable, good, right or justified reasons for our actions are.“

➤ Today: Reasons, motives and causes in the foreground



Why ethics?

- Build trust
 - Different ethical approaches are interesting and helpful for reflection
- Scientific Communication
 - Ethical Reasoning
 - Putting yourself in the other person's shoes (hermeneutics)
- Responsibility
 - Examples:
 - Results for Military
 - Medical, Media & AI Ethics
 - Environmental Ethics
 - Are my research results transparent and comprehensible? Also in terms of financing?
 - What about sustainability?
 - AI models: Where does the training data come from? Copyrights? How well are AI's decisions monitored?

➤ Responsibility, build trust and Scientific Communication



Discussion

Ethics are important
There is no single conception of ethics

Hope, it was helpful
Thank you

➤ Ethical questions are important

