

# PERSONALITY & MORAL RESILIENCY: FALSE FEEDBACK AND ITS EFFECTS ON MORAL DECISIONS



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## INTRODUCTION

- Basic personality traits and self-esteem are predictive of dishonesty and the likelihood of engaging in dishonest behaviors.<sup>1</sup>
- Recent research has found personality, self esteem, and moral disengagement to be predictive of specific dishonest behaviors<sup>2</sup>
- False feedback on somatic markers is associated with influencing behaviors in moral situations.<sup>3</sup>
- We further explored the relationship between personality, self-esteem, lying, morality, false feedback, and the decisions made when faced with social and moral dilemma tasks.

## STUDY 01

**Method.**  $N = 141$  college students (75.2% female, 66.7% white,  $M_{age} = 20.8$  years) completed measures of a) personality<sup>4</sup>, b) self-esteem<sup>5</sup>, c) lying<sup>2</sup>, and d) morality<sup>6</sup>.

## STUDY 02

**Method.**  $N = 60$  college students (54.2% female, 62.67% white,  $M_{age} = 20.7$ ) completed the same measures in Study 01. They were also randomly assigned into one of two conditions (false feedback vs. no false feedback). Of those who were randomly assigned to receive the false feedback, half were randomly assigned to either the above or below average moral disengagement score. Participants in Condition 01 saw moral dilemma tasks after being assigned their false feedback condition and participants in

### Model Fit Measures

Model	R	R <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>
1	0.479	0.230	0.179

### Model Coefficients - SS\_Lie\_Scale

Predictor	Estimate	SE	t	p
Intercept	4.6511	1.0509	4.426	<.001
O	-0.2803	0.1060	-2.645	0.009
N	-0.0319	0.0909	-0.351	0.726
C	-0.1320	0.0842	-1.568	0.120
A	0.0311	0.0914	0.340	0.734
E	0.0354	0.0681	0.519	0.605
SE_Scale	-0.2225	0.2460	-0.904	0.368
M_Dis_Scale	0.5317	0.1690	3.146	0.002

### Study 01 Regression

### One-Way ANOVA (Welch's)

	F	df1	df2	p
Personal Moral Sum	0.816	2	25.0	0.454
Impersonal Moral Sum	0.565	2	25.8	0.575

### Group Descriptives

	Three Level	N	Mean	SD
Personal Moral Sum	1 Above Average	12	1.92	1.564
	2 No Feedback	36	2.00	1.309
	3 Below Average	12	2.33	0.651
Impersonal Moral Sum	1 Above Average	12	1.42	0.669
	2 No Feedback	36	1.61	0.994
	3 Below Average	12	1.33	0.778

### Study 02 ANOVA

Study 2 continued

Condition 02 saw moral dilemma tasks after the moral disengagement scale.

## RESULTS

- Study 01.** Openness and moral disengagement were the only predictors of self-serving lying which contradicts previous previous research.
- Study 02.** Contrary to hypotheses, no significant differences between the false feedback conditions, lying, and moral dilemma decision tasks were found.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Both studies indicate moral disengagement is strongly associated in lying behaviors and moral decision tasks.
- Furthermore, this research suggests that false feedback does not influence the decisions one makes when faced with moral dilemmas.
- Moral disengagement is a stable factor that is resilient to manipulations that aim to alter moral behaviors.

## REFERENCES

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