

## POSITIVE DUTIES AND NEGATIVE DUTIES: A CROSS-CULTURAL COMPARISON OF MORAL JUDGEMENT BETWEEN TAIWANESE AND AMERICAN COLLEGE STUDENTS

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The major purpose of this study is to distinguish the distinctive features between Confucian ethics of ordinary people and Kohlberg's post-conventional morality. The study compared American and Taiwanese college students' responses to items about practicing positive duties to others and judging the immorality of violating the negative duties done by others. The results indicated that both groups were obligated in a descending order to assume positive duties to their parents, spouse, children, and relatives. They also believed that the equity rule should be applied to friends, colleagues, strangers, and competitors. On these two dimensions, the two cultural groups were different in extent only. However, when judging the wrongness of not assuming positive duties to family members done by others, Taiwanese students tended to take the relationships between the actor and the judge into account. In case of evaluating others' misbehaviors of violating negative duties, Taiwanese students were much influenced by his interpersonal relationships with the actor, while American students were not.

**Keywords:** Moral judgements, Relationship-orientation, Positive duties, Negative duties, Ethics of ordinary people, Post-conventional morality