

The project aims to go beyond classical moral dilemmas in studying moral decisions. Recently there have been discussions related to the nature of moral decisions and limitations related to traditional moral dilemmas. In this project I go beyond traditional, sacrificial dilemmas (e.g., whether to kill one person to save five other) and focus on everyday moral dilemmas between honesty and deception. I use the lens of an approach that does not focus on what moral decisions people should make, but rather on what influences such decisions. I plan to focus on both the factors that affect the dilemma between deception and honesty and the consequences of the dilemma. Given that a body of research has shown that self-centered and prosocial dishonesty differ significantly when it comes to both its determinants and consequences, I will focus on the two types of deception in the project. Moral rules and duties are embedded in social relations, hence the moral dilemma will be analyzed in an interpersonal context.

In the first part of the project (Module A) I propose factors that can influence the decision of whether to be honest or to lie in interpersonal relations. I focus on factors related to a temporal perspective (Study 1a-1e). Additionally, as most of the studies so far have focused on the preference of the person deciding whether to lie or tell the truth, I will test what the preferences of the target of the potential lie are and how these preferences relate to relationship satisfaction (Study 2a-2b).

In the second part of the project (Module B) I want to test the relational outcomes of employing deception vs. honesty in a close relationship. In this module, I will focus on one type of relation, namely romantic relationships. I will test if preferences towards the use of deception are mirrored in the partner's decision of whether to lie and how they interact on relationship satisfaction (Study 3a). I will also focus on longitudinal effects of the use of deception in romantic relationships for relationship satisfaction and commitment (Study 3b). I will next focus on comparing prosocial lies to types of honesty. In a series of experimental studies, I will test differences in perception of the partner and the relationship depending on whether different types of truth telling or deception are employed (Study 4a-4c). Finally, in Study 5 conducted with dyads, I will employ an intervention to test the effect of different types of honesty on relationship satisfaction.

To sum up, the project goes beyond traditional moral dilemmas in studying moral decisions and offers a new perspective on the relationship between contextual predictors of the dilemma between lying and honesty and its consequences for interpersonal relations.