

Abstract:

In this paper, we provide a novel definition of moralism as a vice of excess by employing a broadly conceived Aristotelian framework, and we seek to identify its several dimensions. First, we define moralism as “an inappropriately excessive attitude, that an evaluator has towards the object of moral evaluation, and which is expressed either in judgments or in overt actions”. After presenting our definition, we spell out a taxonomy of different moralistic sub-vices of excess, the corresponding vices of deficiency and their corrective virtues. To do so, we rely upon the traditional categories of quantity, quality, relation, and manner. Then, we highlight parallels and differences with notions which may appear to overlap in turn with one or more of our moralistic vices. Finally, we draw some consequences concerning the boundaries of morality and its legitimate area of competence.