

LAWRENCE KOHLBERG

- ↳ Born 1927, grew up in New York
- ▶ attended Andover Academy
- ▶ fought for Israeli cause in running refugees from war-torn Europe
- ▶ 1948 entered University of Chicago - BA in one year
- ▶ doctoral dissertation outlined his theory
- ▶ studied moral development in adolescent males
- ▶ 1968 professor at Harvard
 - ↳ founded Center for Moral Education
 - ▶ founded **Cluster School** - "just community"
- ▶ died 1987

THEORY OF MORAL DEVELOPMENT

- ↳ from Piaget's The Moral Judgment of the Child, 1932
 - ↳ moral judgment follows cognitive stages
 - ▶ origin of morality is child's respect for rules
 - ▶ not a constructivist approach, exogenous
 - ▶ **moral realism** - preoperational
 - ▶ concept of **immanent justice**
 - ▶ ethics of mutual respect - concrete operations
 - ▶ **moral autonomy** - formal operations
- ▶ used Piaget's methodology - **clinical interview**
- ▶ story of **Heinz**
- ▶ **cognitive conflict** drives moral development
- ▶ qualities of stages
 - 1) invariant sequence
 - 2) structured wholes
 - 3) qualitatively different
 - 4) hierarchical integrations of lower stages
 - 5) universal

▶ **STAGES OF MORAL DEVELOPMENT**

Level I - Preconventional

Stage 1 - Obedience and Punishment Orientation

Stage 2 - Instrumental Relativism

Level II - Conventional

Stage 3 - Interpersonal Concordance

Stage 4 - Authority, Law, and Duty

Level III - Postconventional

Stage 5 - Social Contract

Stage 6 - Universal ethical principles

▶ **PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT OF MORAL REASONING**

↳ offer child opportunities for role-taking that induce cognitive conflict so that:

1) moral values provide inadequate solution

2) values of others provide better solutions

▶ **+1 and +2 matching** (Turiel)

▶ moral thought and reasoning versus moral behavior

CONTRIBUTIONS

- ▶ Expanded on Piaget's stages
- ▶ Morality as rational intelligence (not emotion)
- ▶ Cultural universality of theory
- ▶ Emphasis on education for moral development
- ▶ testability

CRITICISM

- ▶ Postconventional considered dangerous by some
- ▶ Is there a stage 6?
 - ↳ Kohlberg removed it when unable to find it
- ▶ Theory derived from males
 - ↳ misrepresents women's moral development
- ▶ Methodology has low reliability and validity
 - ↳ poor inter-rater rel (Kurtines & Grief, 1974)
- ▶ Cultural bias (Simpson, 1974)