

Help giving: The Impact of Responsibility, Deservingness and Moral Observer Emotions
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-Bachelor-

We analyzed the influence of an actor's responsibility and the deservingness of a negative outcome (both influenced by actor's invested effort) on the rise of moral emotions like anger, contempt, schadenfreude, indignation, sympathy as well as on the rather non moral emotions sadness and disappointment. Furthermore, we examined the influence of antecedent cognitions (responsibility and deservingness) on help giving as well as the mediating influence of the respective emotions.

In an online-questionnaire $N = 98$ participants replied to realistic scenarios of emotioneliciting situations. We replicated and extended the findings of Feather (2006), Rudolph, Roesch, and Greitemeyer (2004), and Weiner (2006): Judgments of responsibility and deservingness give rise to manifold emotions, but show slightly different extents of predictive power. For example, responsibility is a better predictor for sympathy than deservingness. In contrast, deservingness is a better predictor for schadenfreude than responsibility. With regard to the cognition-emotion-action-model (Rudolph et al., 2004) path models confirm that sympathy predicts help giving, however in contrast to previous findings, schadenfreude is a better negative predictor for help giving than anger.