

Title	罪悪感と道徳的ジレンマにおける選択との関係および文化的差異
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Citation	
Issue Date	2021-09
Type	Thesis or Dissertation
Text version	author
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10119/17513
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罪悪感と道徳的ジレンマにおける選択との関係および文化的差異

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The concept of guilt varies from culture to culture. It has been suggested that for Chinese, guilt is more associated with a sense of personal responsibility, while for Americans it is more associated with personal idealistic goals (Zhang et al., 2020). However, there has been no research on the correlation between guilt and choice behavior in moral dilemmas. In this Master Thesis, I use the trolley problem to investigate the relationship between guilt and choice in moral dilemmas. In a preliminary study we investigated the relationship between the guilt people of different cultures feel for the victim(s) in the context of the traditional by-stander case and the moral choices there, in conditions such as whether the responsibility of the agent for the event is clearly stated and whether the decision is seen by the victim. And in the main study we investigated the relationship between the guilt people of different cultures feel for the victim(s) in the context of the footbridge case and the moral choices there, in conditions such as whether the protagonist is described in the first/third person and whether there is a direct link between the action one makes and the sacrifice that follows as a result.

The results showed that in both cases, the relationship between guilt and choice showed cross-cultural differences, and in the moral dilemma choice, guilt was shown to be more closely related to the choice in Japanese and Chinese than in Americans. And we found that the Japanese are more concerned about whether they actually take action, while the Americans are more concerned about their own actions and the reputation of others' actions. The Chinese are in general not sensitive to the difference of the conditions.