

## Ⅱ期（一般・学内）

令和6年度

武蔵野大学大学院 人間社会研究科 人間学専攻 人間行動学コース 入学試験問題(12月17日)

[ 英語 ] 次の英文を読んで各問に答えなさい。

People believe that morality is declining. Is it? Societies keep (or at least leave) reasonably good records of extremely immoral behaviour such as slaughter and conquest, slavery and subjugation or murder and rape, and (1) careful analyses of those historical records strongly suggest that these objective indicators of immorality have decreased significantly over the last few centuries. On average, modern humans treat each other far better than their forebears ever did—which is not what one would expect if honesty, kindness, niceness and goodness had been decreasing steadily, year after year, for millennia. (2) Although there are no similarly objective historical records of everyday morality—of how often people offer their seats to an elderly person, give directions to a lost tourist or help their neighbour fix a fence—there are subjective measures of such things.

Recall that in study 1, we examined people's reports of moral change, which were obtained when survey researchers asked people to mentally compare the morality of people in the present to the morality of people at some point in the past and then report the direction of the difference. But, for decades, survey researchers have also been asking people to report directly on the moral values, traits and behaviours of themselves and their contemporaries in the present: "Were you treated with respect all day yesterday?" or "Would you say that most of the time people try to be helpful, or that they are mostly just looking out for themselves?" or "During the past 12 months, how often have you carried a stranger's belongings, like groceries, a suitcase, or shopping bag?". (3) If, as people all over the world claim, morality has been declining steadily and precipitously for decades, then people's reports of current morality should also have declined over the years. Have they?

(中略)

The results of studies 1–3 suggest that people believe that morality has declined, and the results of study 4 suggest that this belief is illusory. (4) If morality has not declined, then why do people think it has? Although there are surely many good answers to this question, we suggest that one of them has to do with the fact that when two well-established psychological phenomena work in tandem, they can produce an illusion of moral decline. First, numerous studies have shown that human beings are especially likely to seek and attend to negative information about others, and mass media indulge this tendency with a disproportionate focus on people behaving badly. As such, people may encounter more negative information than positive information about the morality of 'people in general', and this 'biased exposure effect' may help explain why people believe that current morality is relatively low. Second, numerous studies have shown that when people recall positive and negative events from the past, the negative events are more likely to be forgotten, more likely to be misremembered as their opposite and more likely to have lost their emotional impact. This 'biased memory effect' may

help explain why people believe that past morality was relatively high. Working together, these two phenomena can produce an illusion of moral decline. (5) Specifically, biased exposure to information about current morality may make the present seem like a moral wasteland, biased memory for information about past morality may make the past seem like a moral wonderland and when people in a wasteland remember being in a wonderland, they may naturally conclude that the landscape has changed.

出典 : Mastroianni, A. M., & Gilbert, D. T. (2023). The illusion of moral decline. *Nature*, 618(7966), 782–789.

語彙 : slaughter 虐殺, subjugation 征服, precipitously 急激に, disproportionate 不相应な, wasteland 荒野、荒地

- 問 1 . 下線部(1)を和訳しなさい。
- 問 2 . 下線部(2)を和訳しなさい。
- 問 3 . 下線部(3)を和訳しなさい。
- 問 4 . 下線部(4)を和訳しなさい。
- 問 5 . 下線部(5)を和訳しなさい。
- 問 6 . この文章の大意を日本語で記述しなさい。文字数は 200 字程度とすること。

以上