

Review of: "Planning Courses on Ethics in Engineering Curricula"

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The title of this promised much, but, unfortunately, a lack of theoretical underpinning means there is a lack of depth to the discussion.

The lack of literature underpinning ideas concerning 'moral reasoning' results in the assumption that there is a shared understanding, rather than acknowledging that morality is individually and contextually/ culturally constructed. The concept is treated in far too simplistic a way and further research around this area would be really beneficial.

What are some examples of the engineering 'failures and disasters' caused by not adhering to moral standards? I would like to have read about some.

This:

'An ethical engineering graduate will alone follow the law which will safeguard society from disasters, increase trust, eliminate corruption, and eradicate crimes and nepotism. He/she will safeguard society'.

And this:

'The commitment to excellence will produce an impact on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)'.

Are extreme and idealistic claims. Use clearer, less sweeping and more realistic reasoning for the positive outcomes of moral reasoning upon engineering.

Abbreviations such as ie and etc are not appropriate for academic writing, state your point in full.

Your literature review 'skims the top' of a range of literature without going into any depth about the points that the authors make. Fleischmann, for example (not in your reference list) writes about the fact that ethical standards are not automatically shared and are context specific.

Why are there no references or links to the codes of ethics that you mention? I would have liked to look at some.

Where is the research method underpinning literature? What is 'open the social science model'?

Somewhat ironically there is no mention of ethics in the collection of research data.

Traditionally the aim of a 'discussion' is to compare your own findings with those in literature. You have not done this.

Lots of good ideas for development are presented (and it seems that your ideas really have potential to impact)- but I think that it would have been far more appropriate to have presented this as a 'teaching development project' rather than a piece of research, as it does not have the theoretical underpinning to be recognised as such.