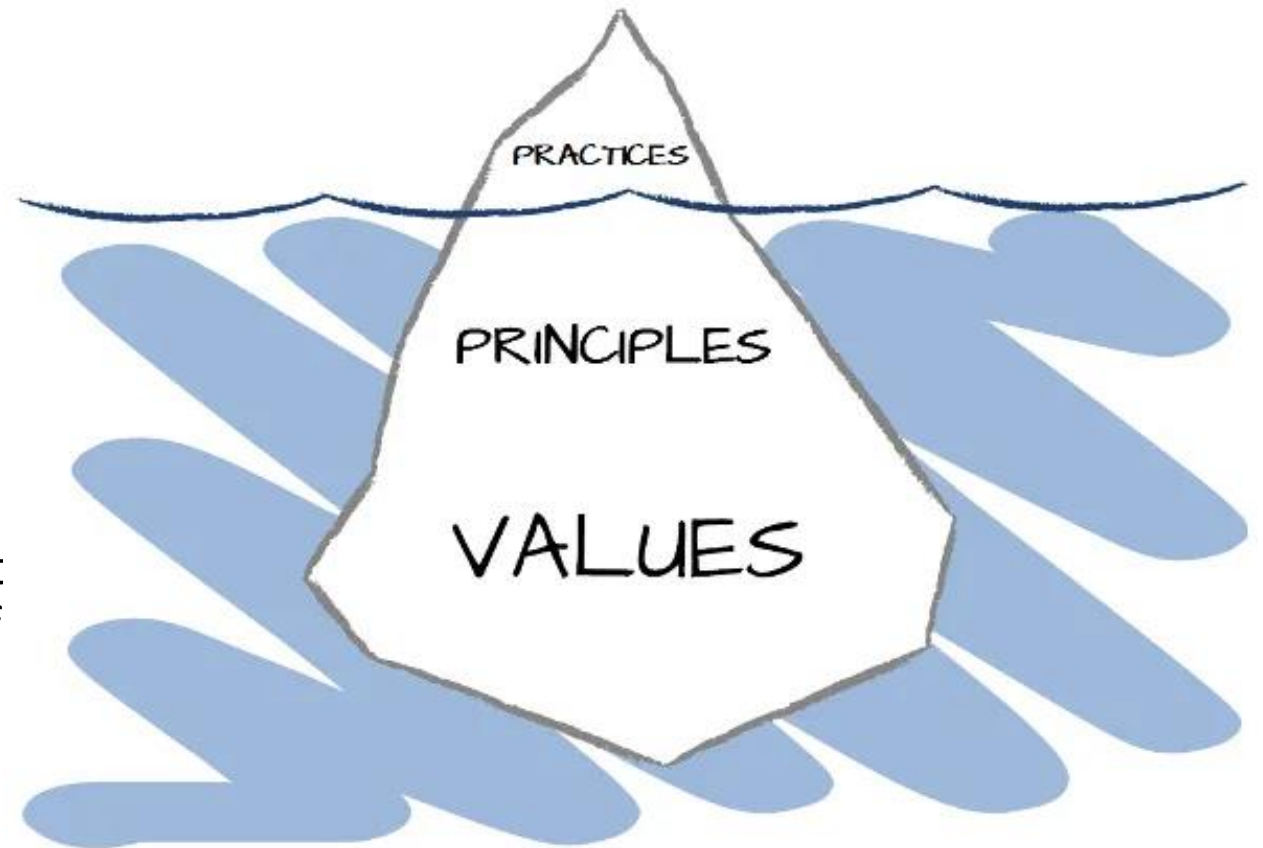# Values

Stephen Downes

November 4, 2021

Values and Principles

- Codes are divided by:
  - *Values* – general moral values, such as 'honesty' and 'trustworthiness'
  - *Principles* – the ethical conditions or behaviors we expect
    - "An ethical principle is a statement concerning the conduct or state of being that is required for the fulfillment of a value; it explicitly links a value with a general mode of action." (Cooper, 1998)

Pursuit of Knowledge

"The first responsibility of university teachers is the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge and understanding through teaching and research." (SFU, 1992).

"…the supreme importance of the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, and the nurture of the democratic principles." (NEA, 1975)

https://katherinereilly.blog/2018/03/28/lifelong-learning-the-ongoing-pursuit-of-knowledge/

David Parkins

Autonomy and Individual Value

- Believing in the worth and dignity of each human being
  - Kantian idea of people as 'ends', not 'means'
  - also, cf. Singer, worth and dignity of animals, the environment
- Or, autonomy embracing the idea of 'informed consent'
  - requires disclosure of information, respect for decision-making, and provision of advice
- Or, two basic ethical convictions:
  - first, that individuals should be treated as autonomous agents, and
  - second, that persons with diminished autonomy are entitled to protection." (DHEW, 1978:4)

Consent

The Nuremberg Code and marketing research may stand at opposite poles of an ethical question, however, they are reflective of a society as a whole that holds consent as sacrosanct on one hand and makes legal End User Licensing Agreements (EULA) on the other hand.

I ♥ FRIES

Freely Given
Reversible
Informed
Enthusiastic
Specific

https://h5pstudio.ecampusontario.ca/content/23057

Intregrity

Different codes stress different aspects of integrity:

- honesty, trust, fairness and respect. (EUI, 2019)
- accuracy, honesty, objectivity, openness, disclosure, and avoidance of conflict of interest (CPA, 2017)
- honest representation of one's own credentials, fulfilment of contracts, and accountability for expenses" (Guyana, 2017)

https://www.quora.com/What-does-integrity-mean-for-most-people

INTEGRITY IS *choosing* COURAGE OVER COMFORT; CHOOSING WHAT IS RIGHT *over what is* FUN, FAST, OR EASY; AND CHOOSING TO PRACTICE OUR VALUES *rather than simply* PROFESSING THEM.
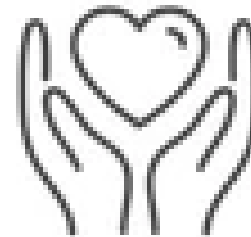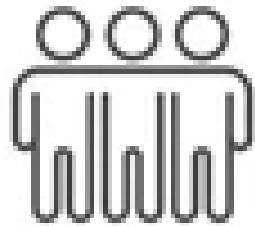
Confidentiality

- Confidentiality is often presented as a virtue in and of itself, perhaps constitutive of integrity.

- Confidentiality, expressed as privacy, is a core principle for data and information services and codes regulating those.

Care

- "Compassion, acceptance, interest and insight for developing students' potential" (OCT, 2020)

- "Treating all children with love and affection irrespective of their school performance and achievement level" (NCERT, 2010).

- legalist interpretation of 'duty of care', for example, that researchers must "prioritize data subject privacy above business objectives
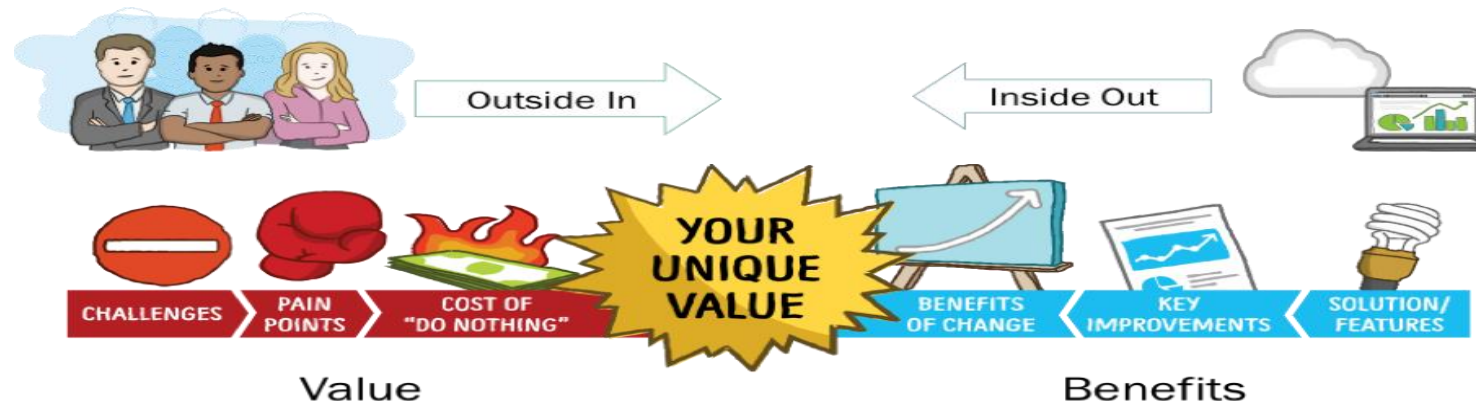
Competence and Authority

- Competence or authority to practice in the profession as core values or principles (CFA, 2019; IEEE, 2020: 7.8; IUPSYS, 2008; etc.).
    - expectation to perform in a competent manner
    - requirement to remain within their domain of competence
    - obligation to ensure that unqualified people do not practice the profession
- Sometimes what counts as competence is spelled out in the code
    - use of robust data models in data research
    - should be sound and free from bias

https://righttoinformation.wiki/explanations/competent-authority

Value and Benefit

Previously we represented 'the good that can be done' as aspirational; here we view the same principle as a limit.

- "obligation to distinguish between remedies that represent the careful consensus of highly trained experts and snake oil" (Kennedy, et.al., 2002).
- "show clear user need and public benefit" (Drew, 2016).
- "shared broadly, to benefit all of humanity" (Asilomar, 2017).
- "specify purposes of data gathering in advance" (Barcelona Principles, 2010)

http://blog.alinean.com/2017/04/gartner-importance-of-value-not-just.html

Non-Maleficence (Don't Be Evil)

- Adaptation of the principle of "do no harm"
- Necessary because harm is unavoidable in many circumstances
  - "avoiding anything which is unnecessarily or unjustifiably harmful…" Beauchamp & Childress (1992)
  - consideration of what the subject considers to be harm (Englehardt, 1993)
  - Non-maleficence in research and data science includes being minimally intrusive (Drew, 2016)

Primum Non Nocere

https://www.karger.com/Article/FullText/509119

Beneficence

- more than non-maleficence and distinct from value and benefit.
- "the principle of acting with the best interest of the other in mind" (Aldcroft, 2012).

Should 'the common good' is included in the principle of beneficence? Should AI promote social justice, or merely be developed consistently with the principles of social justice?

PRINCIPLES OF ETHICS

AUTONOMY   BENEFICENCE   NONMALEFICENCE   JUSTICE

Tom Beauchamp and Jim Childress: https://www.nwabr.org/sites/default/files/Principles.pdf

Respect

Examples:

- acting toward students with respect and dignity (BCTF, 2020)
- "respect for people" (TBS, 2011)
- "mutual respect" (Folan, 2020)
- "respect for the composite culture of India among students" (NCERT, 2010)
- "respect for the rights and dignity of learners" (Stevens & Silbey, 2014)
- promoting "human dignity and flourishing" (AI4All)

https://www.ccl.org/articles/leading-effectively-articles/the-power-of-respect/
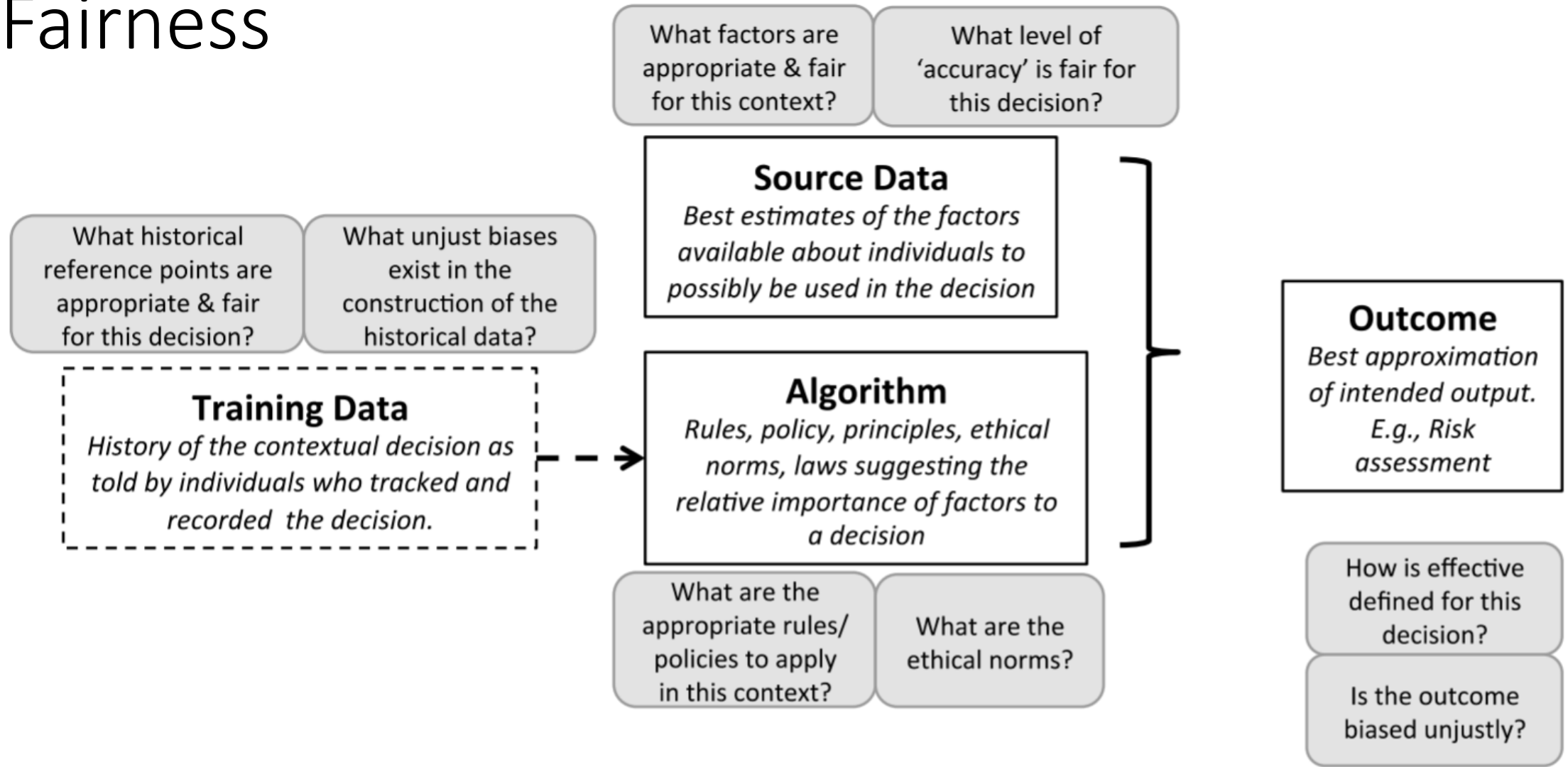
Democracy

- May mean respect for the idea of rule by the people, respect for the results of democratic choice (as, say, found in public service ethics; TBS,2011:1.1-1.2),

- May also mean respect for democratic values, such as justice and non-discrimination.

Justice

- Ever since John Rawls's influential *A Theory of Justice* (Revised, 1999) the concepts of 'justice' and 'fairness' have been linked in popular discourse, according to the principle 'justice as fairness'.
- Justice, sometimes coined as 'natural justice' (CPA, 2017:11), can also be depicted in terms of rights (Stevens & Silbey, 2014; Asilomar, 2017; Access Now, 2018).
- Justice is also expressed as an endorsement of diversity and prohibition of discrimination (Sullivan-Marx, 2020; Brandom, 2018; CPA, 2017:11; BACB, 2014; etc.)
- Can be expanded to include redress for current or past wrongs, or to prevent future wrongs (Brandom, 2018).

Fairness

https://uxdesign.cc/ethical-dilemmas-of-ai-fairness-transparency-human-machine-collaboration-trust-accountability-1fe9fc0ffff3

Accountability and Explicability

The principles of accountability and explicability arise differently in computing and AI codes than it does in other ethical codes.
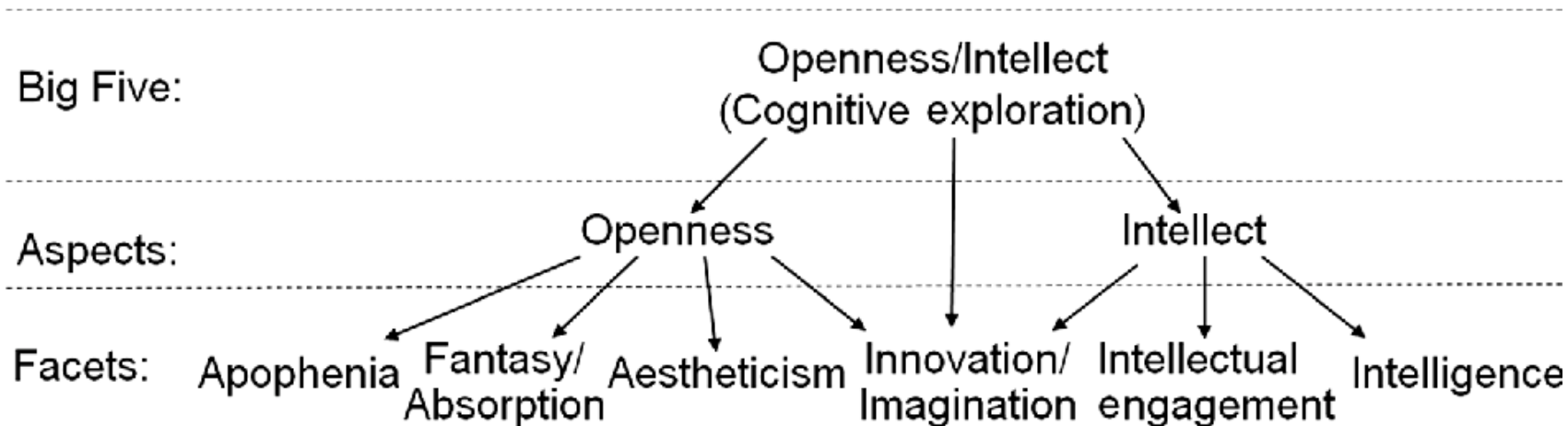
- In the case of academic and medical research, accountability is typically delegated to a process undertaken by a research ethics board (REB).
- In other disciplines, a range of additional processes describe practices such as predictability, auditing and review (Raden, 2019: 9).
- "Explicability, understood as incorporating both intelligibility and accountability" where we should be able to obtain "a factual, direct, and clear explanation of the decision-making process" (Floridi et al. 2018)
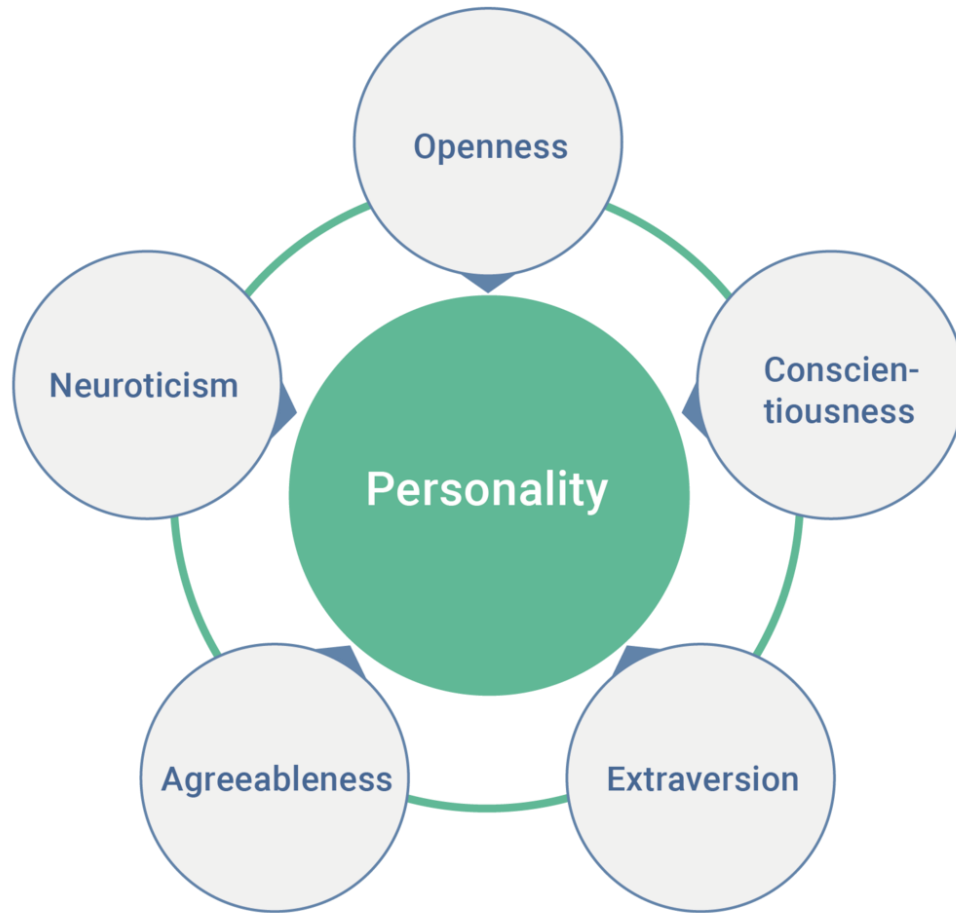- "Meaningful human control" Robbins (2019)

Openness

Many of the codes of ethics, especially those dedicated to research, express openness as a core value, though often with conditions attached.

- Four Freedoms: Read, Reuse, Modify, Share
- FAIR: Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability
- Openness understood as open access (e.g. open data)

Personality Traits

- **extraversion** (outgoing/energetic vs. solitary/reserved)

- **agreeableness** (friendly/compassionate vs. critical/rational)

- **openness to experience** (inventive/curious vs. consistent/cautious)

- **conscientiousness** (efficient/organized vs. extravagant/careless)

- **neuroticism** (sensitive/nervous vs. resilient/confident)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Five_personality_traits
Digman: https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/10.1146/annurev.ps.41.020190.002221

Common Cause / Solidarity

- Many codes of ethics also explicitly endorse an advocacy role for professionals to promote the values stated in the code.

- The codes also express advocacy for a shared vision "to identify the values, knowledge and skills that are distinctive" to the profession" (OCT, 2016)

https://www.jurist.org/commentary/2020/03/louis-beres-illness-as-unifier/