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Do Bankers Have Deviant Moral Attitudes? Negative Results from a Tentative Survey

Abstract:
Bankers have a reputation for deviating from standard morals. It is an open question, though, if this claim can be substantiated. Here, it is tested directly if bankers respond differently to moral dilemmas. Evaluations of the moral acceptableness of behavioural options in two trolley cases by bankers (n = 23) are compared to those of ordinary people (n = 274). An apparent difference in response behaviour between the groups can be fully explained by a difference in the response behaviour of men and women. When controlling for gender, no differences between bankers and other people remain.

Keywords: Morals, bankers, survey, trolley dilemmas, experimental philosophy.