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Subject: Re: Define Normality

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Wed, 10 Oct 2007 06:51:13 GMT

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"I'm different! Just like everybody else..."

Normality, as most of the human race defines the term, is entirely artificial. This is because the standards of normality for most people are entirely too narrow in scope to apply beyond their own limited familiar group (be it their household, friends, city, country, ethnic group, etc). It is a construct of society, just as society is a construct of sentient beings. It is a means for society as a whole to justify its actions and beliefs through the exclusion of everyone and everything which falls outside that which a majority of the members of that society define as 'normal.' No one is born already indoctrinated into the ways and means of society; they are instructed by members of that society and so pick up the accepted norms of that society- or, if they so choose, reject them.

The only 'true' normality is physical normality, in the sense that the human body is designed and built to operate a certain way and a body that does not is abnormal. However, since social 'normality' is a concept rather than a fact (it is, of course, a concept accepted as fact), it is not something which is inherent. There are norms- the rule of law, as well as certain moral standards (killing is wrong, the provision of care for those who cannot care for themselves, etc) which extend beyond society, and which must be or ought to be applied to humanity as a whole. Lesser standards, such as the use or style of clothing, language, and so forth, cannot be applied universally and therefore cannot be defined as normal.

True normality, therefore, is a set of standards applying to the physical (that would include brain chemistry, as that is in the end a physical thing) design of humanity and to the moral codes which absolutely must be applied to all of humanity to prevent the utter and immediate breakdown of all society- and nothing else besides. If an overwhelming majority of humans cannot be defined as X, then X is not normal- period, ended. Normality to the limit of our understanding is the only normal; anything lesser is merely dependent on region and taste.

As a footnote to that, I would like to add that those characteristics falling under physical abnormality (and again, that includes brain and body chemistry, i.e. mental defects or physical attractions) cannot be judged by the standards of moral normality, since those things are not within the scope of the affected person's control. Moral abnormality is a choice; physical abnormality is not.

The short version- 'normal' as commonly defined is a construct of human societies. The only things which can truly be called 'normal' are those which can be found to apply to an overwhelming majority of the entire species- and even then, there are two different forms of normality which cannot overlap one another.

All subjective, of course.

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