

Gilligan's Theory of Moral Development



PIONEER OF GENDER STUDIES

- Born in 1936
- Student of Lawrence Kohlberg
- Worked with Erik Erikson
- Did research with Lawrence Kohlberg
- Criticized Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development
- Famous for her work in psychological and moral development of girls
- Taught at Harvard for 30 years; was first professor of gender studies there

Gilligan's View of Kohlberg

- *Justice orientation/perspective*
 - “draws attention to problems of inequality and oppression and holds up an ideal of reciprocity and equal respect.”
- *Care orientation/perspective*
 - “draws attention to problems of detachment or abandonment and holds up an ideal of attention and response to need.”
- Gilligan states that “Two moral injunctions – not to treat others unfairly and not to turn away from someone in need – capture these different concerns.”

CRITICISMS OF GILLIGAN'S THEORY

- Theory is based on moral decisions in an actual real life situation. Findings may not apply in ALL situations.
- Data was collected on women ONLY.
- Gilligan also never published her data in peer-reviewed journals.