## **LEARNING THEORIES: Lawrence Kohlberg's**

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**Lawrence Kohlberg's stages of moral development** constitute an adaptation of a psychological theory originally conceived by the Swiss psychologist <u>Jean Piaget</u> [3]. <u>Kohlberg</u> [4] began work on this topic while a psychology graduate student at the <u>University of Chicago</u> [5][1] [6] in 1958, and expanded and developed this theory throughout his life.

The theory holds that moral reasoning [7], the basis for ethical [8] behavior, has six identifiable developmental stages [9], each more adequate at responding to moral dilemmas than its predecessor.[2] [10] Kohlberg followed the development of moral judgment far beyond the ages studied earlier by Piaget [3],[3] [11] who also claimed that logic and morality develop through constructive stages.[2] [10] Expanding on Piaget's work, Kohlberg determined that the process of moral development was principally concerned with justice, and that it continued throughout the

individual's lifetime,[4]  $_{[12]}$  a notion that spawned dialogue on the philosophical implications of such research.[5]  $_{[13]}$ [6]  $_{[14]}$  Receive by

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