

LEARNING THEORIES: Lawrence Kohlberg's

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[2]



Lawrence Kohlberg's stages of moral development constitute an adaptation of a psychological theory originally conceived by the Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget [3]. Kohlberg [4] began work on this topic while a psychology graduate student at the University of Chicago [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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