

Continuity in One's Evaluative Outlook

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What one wants and values can change over time. In that process, some changes can be more dramatic than others, illustrated in the recent literature by the cases of transformative experience and aspiration. In this paper, I look more closely at what it means to have a continuous change in one's evaluative outlook. In particular, I analyze the types of change in one's desires and argue that continuities between the earlier and later desire can be grounded in at least three kinds of mechanism: associative learning, instrumental learning, and interpretation. Finally, I consider some ways in which this analysis can inform recent debates over evaluative change.