

The Triumph of Secular Individualism – New Mathematical Model Shows How Morals Will Change Over Time

The model explains the world-wide liberal trend in moral opinions and also tells us which opinions will shift in the near future, and how fast.

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[/EINPresswire.com/](https://EINPresswire.com/) -- Corporal punishment of children, such as spanking or paddling, is still widely accepted in the world's most influential country, the US. But public opinion is changing rapidly, and in the United States and elsewhere around the world this norm will soon become a marginal position.

The right to abortion is currently being threatened through a series of court cases – but though change is slow, the view of abortion as a right will eventually come to dominate. A majority of Americans today reject the claim that parental leave should be equally shared between parents, but within 15 years public opinion will flip, and a majority will support an equal division.

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– “Almost all moral issues are moving in the liberal direction. Our model is based on large opinion surveys continuously conducted in the US, but our method for analyzing the dynamics of moral arguments to predict changing public opinion on moral issues can be applied anywhere,”

...says social norm researcher [Pontus Strimling](#), a research leader at the [Institute of Futures Studies](#), who together

with mathematician Kimmo Eriksson and statistician Irina Vartanova conducted [the study](#) that will be published in the high-ranking journal Royal Society Open Science on Wednesday, April 13th. Applying the model to data on public opinion surveyed in 2018, the article presents year by



The authors Dr. Irina Vartanova, Professor Kimmo Eriksson and Dr. Pontus Strimling

year predictions for how public opinion will develop on a number of issues up until 2030. This allows for empirical tests of the model through comparisons with actual developments in the coming decade. The results of the first test, against data from 2020, are promising.

– “Our model did considerably better than all known methods for predicting opinion change. The key is to understand the mechanisms that underlie the change. How opinions change depends on the arguments used to argue for and against a certain stance. The model gives a clear picture of what societies will look like in the near future.”

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