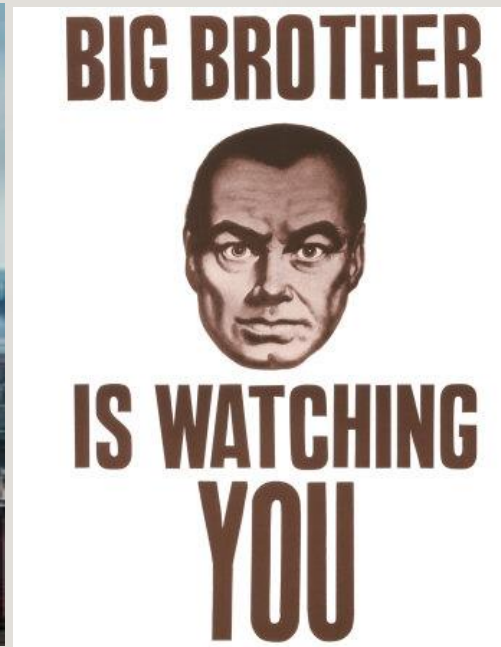


# Moral Emotions and Risky Technologies: Including Moral Emotions In Risk Communication And Political Decision Making

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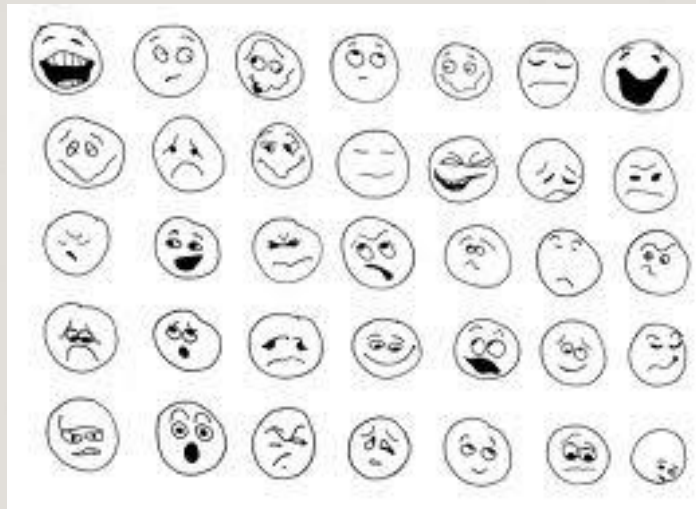
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# Introduction

- Common view: in decision making under uncertainty, people follow their unreflected intuitions, emotions or ‘gut reactions’
- I propose a different theory of moral emotions:
- Moral emotions can be invaluable sources of insight in judging the moral acceptability of risks
- As such, risk policy should include the moral emotions of stakeholders



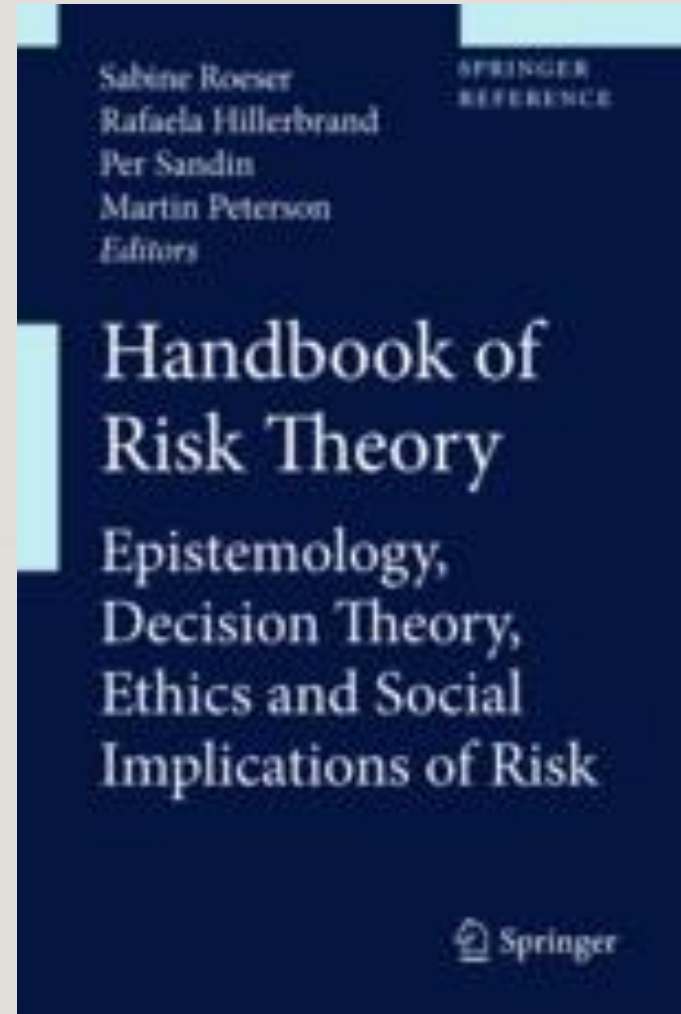
# Technology and risks

- Technology has improved our level of wellbeing significantly
- But all technologies also have their potential downsides or risks.
- How should we decide about risky technologies?



# Conventional risk management

- Risk = probability x unwanted effect
- Eg. Annual fatalities as consequence of a technology
- Cost/benefit-analysis in order to decide whether a technology is implemented
- ‘Rational, objective, value neutral method’- ???



# The public

- The public takes other considerations into account in determining whether a risk is acceptable:
- Fair distribution costs/benefits?
- Risky activity freely chosen?
- Available alternatives?
- Some risks can lead to enormous catastrophes, unacceptable, even if low probability
- Same concerns are shared by risk ethicists





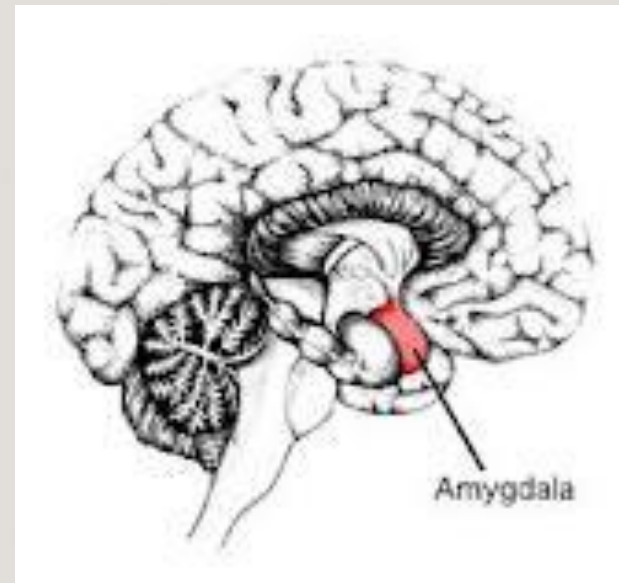
# Affect in Decision Making under Uncertainty

- Paul Slovic, Melissa Finucane and others: emotions and rationality are distinct sources of insight that have opposite tasks
- Dual Process Theory (DPT):
- System 1 is emotional, affective, intuitive, spontaneous and evolutionary prior.
- System 2 is rational, analytical, reflective and occurred later in our evolution.
- System 2 normatively superior to system 1.
- Similar to common dichotomy emotion vs reason



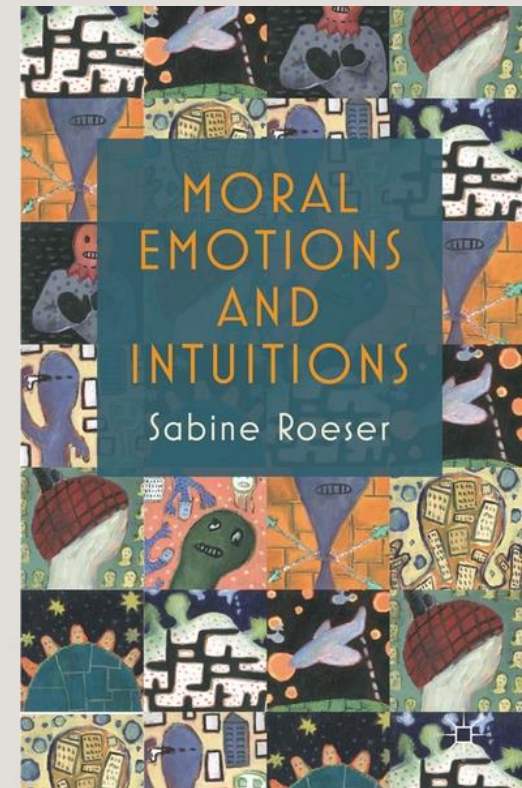
# An alternative view about emotions

- Emotions are needed for practical rationality (Aristotle, Damasio 1994, Frijda, Goldie, Nussbaum, Solomon, Roberts etc)
- Emotions are affective and cognitive at the same time
- I.e. they involve propositional attitudes and care about the object of the proposition
- ‘I am afraid of nuclear energy because I fear a meltdown and I care about the environment and future generations.’
- → Features of system 1 and system 2
- → emotions fall into both systems or neither ( ‘system 3’ ?)



# Moral Emotions and Risky Technologies

- Emotions indispensable source of ethical insight (Roeser 2002, 2011)
- Moral emotions can be legitimate, sources of insight concerning the moral acceptability of technological risks
- Sympathy, fear, indignation, enthusiasm
- Point to morally salient aspects of technologies
- Such as risks, benefits, autonomy, fairness





# Emotional deliberation approach to risk

- 2 Pitfalls in current risk politics, both based on idea that emotions are irrational (DPT)
  - Technocratic pitfall :
    - Ignore emotions
    - system 2 (abstract rationality)
  - Populist pitfall:
    - Do whatever public wants
    - system 1, gut reactions

# Emotional deliberation approach to risk: Towards a New Political Philosophy of Risk

- Instead, I propose:
- Emotional deliberation approach to risk (system 3)
- Take emotions as *starting point* of discussion
- Including moral emotions in risk politics and risk communication:
  - Morally better political decisions about risks and
  - Better understanding between laypeople and experts