

There is growing evidence that the emotion of disgust--an emotion that likely evolved to protect individuals from physical contamination--plays a central role in moral and political judgment. I will review two sources of evidence we have collected in support of this general claim. First, I will review a set of recent studies demonstrating that the degree to which people are likely to experience disgust (their "disgust sensitivity") is predictive of their general political orientation (including their voting behavior), and of their political views on specific issues in the sociomoral domain (e.g., attitudes toward gay marriage). Second, I will review a series of studies demonstrating that inducing disgust in the laboratory can shift moral and political attitudes toward the conservative end of the spectrum. Finally, I will attempt to provide a plausible explanation for why disgust might affect moral and political judgment in this manner.