

## **Pragmatism and Moral Progress**

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When societies change the norms by which they regulate interpersonal relationships, how can we tell whether such change amounts to moral progress, without begging the question in favor of our preferred answer? Pragmatism offers a way to avoid this problem, by evaluating the process of change. When social change is brought about by learning or discovery processes, this gives us reason to believe that the outcome amounts to progress. Pragmatism offers us at least two ways to discover better norms: bias reduction and experiments in living. I briefly illustrate each method with cases from the history of the abolition of slavery.