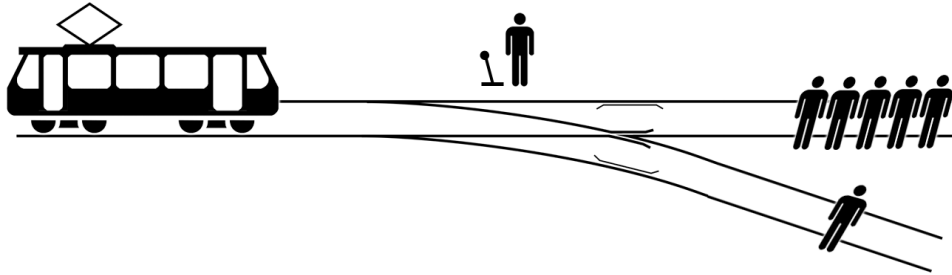


Seminar activity: the trolley dilemma(s)

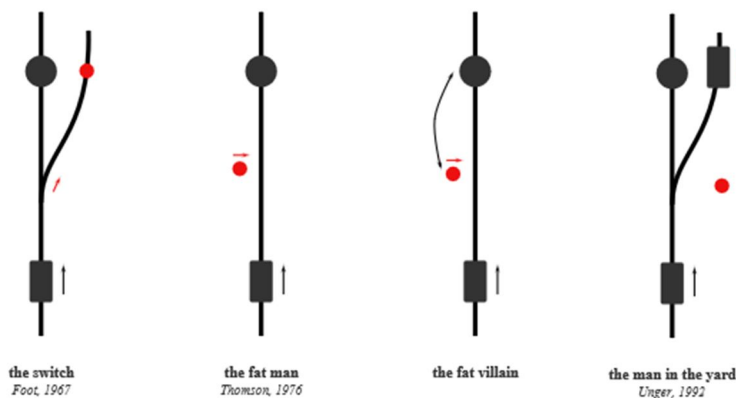
Business ethics: Foundation of European Thought 23/02/2017 – Dr. Massimiliano Pellegrini

The Trolley dilemma

You are the driver of a runaway trolley which you can only steer from one narrow track on to another; five men are working on one track and one man on the other; anyone on the track you enter is probably bound to be killed. What you would do?



Variations of the original dilemma



The fat man

As before, a trolley is hurtling down a track towards five people. You are on a bridge under which it will pass, and you can stop it by putting something very heavy in front of it. As it happens, there is a very fat man next to you – your only way to stop the trolley is to push him over the bridge and onto the track, killing him to save five. Should you proceed?

The fat villain

As before, a trolley is hurtling down a track towards five people. You are on a bridge under which it will pass, and you can stop it by putting something very heavy in front of it. As it happens, there is a very fat man next to you – your only way to stop the trolley is to push him over the bridge and onto the track, killing him to save five. In this case, however, the fat man is a notorious local gangster, accused of blackmailing, kidnapping, extortion and instigator of several murders. Should you proceed?

The man in the yard

As before, a trolley is hurtling down a track towards five people. You can divert its path by colliding another trolley into it, but if you do, both will be derailed and go down a hill, and into a yard where a man is sleeping in a hammock. He would be killed. Should you proceed?

Now REFLECT:

Compare your decisions about the different scenarios (the trolley, the fat man, the fat villain, and the man in the yard). Are they similar? Do they differ? Explain why in the text box.

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.