What have other ethical theories said?

- Deontology: the alignment of action and universalizable ethics principles (e.g., treating others as ends)
- Consequentialism (or utilitarianism): the greatest happiness of the greatest number, the interests of all beings considered equally

What does Confucian ethics say?

- We are relational, role-bearing persons (not isolated individuals in liberal democracy)
  - The tone you use to speak to your dad is different from the one you use to communicate with a stranger
- Our responsibilities are social which are prescribed by the roles we assume in communal contexts
- Our ultimate development goal is to become a junzi (superior person, 君子) through self-cultivation
- How to cultivate your moral self?
  - Self-cultivation consists of three interconnected processes: observation, reflection, and practice
    - Two mechanisms of role modeling: imitation modeling and influence modeling
  - Confucian moral development model consists of four different stages: beginner, developing learner, junzi, and sage.
- Confucian ethics can be perceived as a kind of virtue ethics
  - Virtues are developed through the journey of lifelong learning
  - Responses to the situationist critique of virtue ethics
  - Moral exemplars are those who are intellectually and morally superior
  - But can moral exemplars be wrong?
- Confucian ethics questions the oversimplified understanding of human rights in liberal democracy
  - The limitations of liberal democracy
The strengths of meritocracy
Should human rights all be equal? If so, in what sense?
The moral (not political) egalitarianism in Confucian ethics

Confucian ethics and/in engineering: A couple of examples
Meritocratic leadership on the factory floor

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