

Moral Sabotage in the Pandemic

Mechanisms of Moral Disengagement	Pandemic Examples (WARNING: CONTAINS LIES)
<p>Moral Justification, Portraying medical harm as serving a higher social cause</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Urgency of Normal” - Kids must be in an institutional setting school building to be educated, regardless of teachers and some students dying or becoming seriously debilitated with long term illness or kids bringing the virus home to parents and killing or disabling them ● “Eat out to help out” in the UK to get people eating and drinking at restaurants and pubs again to boost the food & beverage businesses ● “Healthy people like me have to do our part and get sick to build herd immunity. You’re welcome.” ● “Think of how live theater and live music performers have been suffering! We need to support the arts by attending live performances.” ● “The strong will survive and make a better, stronger, smarter population.” ● Claims that masks interfere with compassionate care in medical settings - prioritizing a patient seeing the doctor or caregiver’s face over the patient staying alive.
<p>Euphemistic Language, Using sanitizing terms (e.g. martyrdom operations) so medical harm is seen as mild or benign</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Mild” (meaning everything short of being hospitalized in the ICU on a ventilator) ● “It’s just like a cold” (referring to the first day of symptoms in the acute stage) ● “It’s no worse than flu” (which does kill some people, but doesn’t cause such a significant increase in cardiac events so it’s not a fair comparison) ● Long Covid “fatigue” mischaracterized as “feeling tired” ● Brain fog mischaracterized as no worse than being a bit punchy and forgetful. ● Exit Wave (minimizing the significance of human suffering happening) ● Hybrid Immunity (meaning vaccinated people getting repeatedly infected) ● Immunity Debt (meaning eugenics debt but misrepresented as positive) ● “Peaks and valleys” referring to surges and plateaus ● “No ICU beds” (meaning too little staff to care for so many patients safely) ● “Closed for staff shortage” or “deep cleaning” when they mean everyone is home sick with the virus ● “It’s not as disruptive now.” (meaning there is less official reporting about what’s going on so you don’t hear about why things are disrupted.)
<p>Exonerative Comparison, Comparing own acts of medical harm to extremely heinous or outrageous acts of violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “We’re not gunning people down, don’t be so dramatic.” ● “It’s not like giving them Ebola.” ● “Are we going to lockdown the next time there’s a little flu outbreak?” ● It’s not eugenics unless it’s specifically government agents forcibly performing surgery to sterilize people against their will. Nothing else counts as eugenics. ● It’s not a genocide unless some very specific amount of people are killed on purpose with specific types of manufactured weapons and clearly stated motives. ● If it’s not as bad as what the Nazis did in the Holocaust, you shouldn’t even mention it.

See: National Security Challenges: Insights from Social, Neurobiological, and Complexity Sciences <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/pdfs/AD1093608.pdf>

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Displacement of Responsibility, Placing the responsibility for the harm one causes on other groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “I’m healthy and have nothing to worry about.” ● “Pandemic of the Unvaccinated” ● “It’s just the [marginalized community] who needs to worry about this.” ● The film industry uses testing and masking right up until the camera rolls and then the people protected in that industry blame the audience, with no such workplace safety protections, for not knowing that unmasking in crowds safely is just a fantasy they’re portraying on the silver screen. ● “We told them to get their vaccines!” (Only promoting vax and pax, never masks, HEPA, or staying home) ● “The new variants are coming out of those countries.” ● “We would have full hybrid immunity by now if people like you would just stop masking and get infected.” ● “This is all Trump’s fault.” ● “Congressional Republicans keep voting against pandemic funding!” (ignoring that a double handful of US Senate Democrats also oppose pandemic funding.)
Diffusion of Responsibility, Obscuring or minimizing the causal role played in the outcome of medical harms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “People just don’t want mask mandates in schools.” (even while polls show the majority of people absolutely do - pluralistic ignorance) ● Someone in an industry or region with good enforced workplace safety precautions and a comparatively decent job market telling people elsewhere to “just find another job” if they’re worried about the virus. ● “They could have died of anything, they were already old / disabled / immunocompromised before getting covid.”
Ascription of Blame, Blaming the victim of one’s action for causing the harm inflicted upon them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Just stay home if you’re worried” ● “Just get a different job.” ● “Just wear a mask yourself.” ● “I’m embarrassed that you’re the only one I know still taking precautions.” ● “You’re making Mom and Dad really sad not going to Thanksgiving.” ● “Why are you still wearing a mask?” ● “You’re living in fear.”
Misrepresenting the Harm, Minimizing, distorting or ignoring the harmful impact of one’s action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It’s mild ● “it’s just like the flu” ● It only kills [those people]. ● “Kids get sick, this is just part of life.” ● “I got everyone sick with covid at the birthday party but they knew the risks of being there.” ● “it was just a few sniffles and a cough” ● “I recovered quickly”, but that doesn’t take into account the heart attack 3 months later. ● “I took Paxlovid and I feel fabulous!” ● “I only lost my sense of smell and taste.”

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Dehumanization, Removing the human qualities of people/groups and replacing them with evil or demonic qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “They’re already unwell” ● “They’re populists.” ● “They’re paranoid.” ● “They’re militant maskers” ● “They want to force the jab on everyone to kill us!” ● “They’re forever covid freaks” ● “They’re irrational to avoid illness and death” ● “They’re communists!” ● “They’re child abusers!” ● “They’re abstinence chickens!” ● “They wear face diapers because they smell!” ● “It’s just certain populations.” ● “You’re turning the sickest elderly into pincushions to buy them a couple of extra months”

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General Devices for Lowering Morale and Creating Confusion	Pandemic Examples (WARNING: CONTAINS LIES)
(a) Give lengthy and incomprehensible explanations when questioned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Famous doctor threads on risk management math based on fallacies that go on for 24 tweets and really say almost nothing. ● Going on and on with a laundry list of astounding claims of miracle cure powers of various pharmaceuticals and “supplements” for prevention or treatment. ● “Herd immunity by constant reinfection.” ● Arguments about needing unethical Randomized Control Trials for things that have already been shown effective by other studies. ● Repeating nonsense pseudoscience talking points about stuff driving other stuff into cells to drive away the virus with sciency-sounding words.
(b) Report imaginary spies or danger or made-up threats to authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pandemic deniers and anti-vaxxers reporting family members to child protective services out of anger because they refused to bring their children to the covid denier’s family holiday party superspreader. ● Claiming that remote work that has been efficient is now dangerous or bad to get employers to demand people get back to the office. ● Publishing articles claiming remote schooling is harmful so that school directors end remote options. ● Arguing that masks will lead to dangerous “learning loss” so that parents and teachers make rules against masks or discouraging masks.

See: SIMPLE SABOTAGE FIELD MANUAL Strategic Services Field Manual No. 3 Office of Strategic Services Washington, D.C. 17 January 1944 https://regmedia.co.uk/2021/01/05/simple_sabotage_field_manual.pdf

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(c) Act stupid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wearing a mask below the nose. ● Bragging about risky behavior. ● Taking mask off to sneeze. ● Pretending not to remember Zoom as an option even though they used it over the course of 2020. ● Pointing and laughing at masked strangers in stores. ● Posting nonsensical rude comments on the internet. ● Talking about being “locked down for 2 years” even though lockdowns barely happened anywhere & not for two years straight. ● Pretending to be unable to hear or recognize masked people. ● Healthcare workers cheerfully and passive aggressively tell masked patients over and over that they can take off their masks.
(d) Be as irritable and quarrelsome as possible without getting yourself into trouble.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social media trolls. Enough said. ● Berating family for masking or taking precautions ● Pointing and laughing at masked strangers in stores ● Telling young children of isolating families about the fun time you had flying to another country or going to some fun but risky place. ● Sending unmasked selfies (including innocent babies) to troll known covid isolating or high risk families ● Pandemic deniers concern trolling saying “I’m sorry you’re anxious about the virus” to high risk and immunocompromised people. ● Asking people taking precautions if they have talked to a therapist about their covid precautions.
(e) Misunderstand all sorts of regulations, procedures, concerning such matters as mitigation and personal protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Equating mask mandates with “lockdown” ● Deliberately refuse to understand the concept of source control with masking even if it’s understood in the context of surgeons in the OR. ● Claiming a city mask mandate will mean people will have to wear masks at home or in a dentist chair. ● Start rumors that university mask mandates will require masking while showering with surprise inspections. ● Make propaganda memes to confuse people with straw man arguments about how vaccines work. ● Wearing a mask below the nose.
(f) Complain against ersatz materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Claiming that because surgical masks aren’t as good as N95s that nobody should bother masking at all ● Falsely claiming that if smells can get through the masks must not work well enough. ● Claiming that HEPA filters can’t filter every last harmful thing out of the air instantly so they’re not worth it. ● Telling people not to get vaccinated because there are not 100%. ● “Don’t bother taking an effective drug since it’s not a perfect cure.”

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<p>(g) In public treat people taking public health seriously coldly (h) stop all conversation when someone masked or taking precautions enters a cafe or other place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harassment and assaults of nurses and other healthcare workers. ● Declining to call or even send holiday cards to family members who can't risk visiting in person ● Unnecessarily invading the space of coworkers who are masking and taking precautions. ● Jeering of service workers who are wearing masks. ● Customers who say to masked cashiers, "Let me see your smile!" ● Ignoring requests for safety measures, and even pleas. ● Ignoring and refusing to pass on even the knowledge of political demonstrations, petitions, and other campaigns for better safety measures.
<p>(i) Cry and sob hysterically at every occasion, especially when confronted by government clerks or healthcare workers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● "I can't bear to be in a place with high rates of masking. I have a mask phobia." ● "I need to be able to see the cashier smile!" ● Going on tirades about the belief that pro-maskers and government mask mandates are motivated by a wish to control and to train people to submit. ● Whining about mask mandates, even long after they've been lifted. ● Protesting restrictions that don't exist. ● Pitching a fit over a pre-surgery PCR test. ● Lamenting at length publicly about seeing someone wearing a mask outside or in a car.
<p>(j) Boycott all movies, entertainments, concerts, newspapers which are in any way supporting public health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Boycotting venues that require masks or vaccination. ● Listening only to the media that says what one wants to hear. ● Refusing to acknowledge media outlets that are reporting about outbreaks or medical dangers. ● Lambasting celebrities who say they have Long Covid. ● Complaining bitterly about seeing someone wearing a mask claiming it ruined their experience.
<p>(k) Do not cooperate in community public health measures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Refusing to isolate when sick. ● Refusing to get tested when sick. ● Refusing to wear a mask when recommended or required. ● Refusing to defend or protect the aged and other vulnerable people. ● Wearing a mask below the nose.

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