

Yakov Ben-Haim, 2021, Robust-satisficing ethics in intelligence, *Intelligence and National Security*, vol.36, #5, pp.721–736.

Abstract Diverse methodologies have been employed for ethical intelligence analysis and operations: Kantian deontology optimizes fidelity to *a priori* moral axioms, pragmatic realism optimizes the achievement of righteous goals (usually national interests), and consequentialism optimizes the balance between moral good and bad. Each classical methodology optimizes an ethically significant entity. It is widely acknowledged that uncertainty adversely impacts ethical intelligence analysis and operations. This paper develops a distinct methodology for ethical analysis of intelligence under deep uncertainty. It is proposed to satisfice the ethical entity and to maximize the robustness to uncertainty. The outcome is not necessarily ethically optimal, but it is ethically adequate over the maximal range of unknown futures. The proposed robust-satisficing methodology is developed generically, and demonstrated for consequentialism on a hypothetical but realistic example.

Keywords Ethics, uncertainty, intelligence operations, consequentialism, robust-satisficing.