

SAM HARRIS

THE BLOG

The Very Bad Wizards Interview #1

Sam Harris, David Pizarro, and Tamler Sommers talk (and then talk some more)

[Consciousness](#) | [Ethics](#) | [Free Will](#) | [Meditation](#) | [Philosophy](#) | [Self](#) | [Violence](#) | December 16, 2014

0:00-47:00—Intro and costs and benefits of religion

47:00-1:17:00—Drugs, the self, free will

1:17:30-end—Blame, guilt, vengeance, moral responsibility

David Pizarro is an associate professor in the Department of Psychology at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. His primary research interest is in how and why humans make moral judgments, such as what makes us think certain actions are wrong, and that some people deserve blame. In addition, he studies how emotions influence a wide variety of judgments. These two areas of interest come together in the topic of much of his recent work, which has focused on the emotion of disgust and the role it plays in shaping moral, social, and political judgments.

Tamler Sommers is an associate professor in the Philosophy Department at the University of Houston with a joint appointment in the Honors College. He is director of the Honors minor Phronesis: A Program in Politics and Ethics. His research focuses on issues relating to moral responsibility, criminal justice, honor, and revenge. Sommers is the author of two books: *Relative Justice: Cultural Diversity, Free Will, and Moral Responsibility* (Princeton, 2012) and *A Very Bad Wizard: Morality Behind the Curtain* (McSweeney's, 2009). He received his PhD in Philosophy from Duke University in 2005.

Notes

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