

# SAM HARRIS

## THE BLOG

### Very Bad Wizards Interview #2

Sam Harris, David Pizarro, and Tamler Sommers keep talking

[Ethics](#) | [Free Will](#) | [Philosophy](#) | [Violence](#) | February 28, 2015

#### Episode Info

Sam Harris gets back in the VBW ring for another round on moral responsibility, ethical theories, and the grounds for our obligations to other people. Are we at a genuine stalemate when it comes to blame and desert? Is Tamler a closet consequentialist? Is Sam a closet pluralist? Why is Dave such a big Wagner fan? Plus, Twitter shaming: what is it good for? Settle in, get comfortable, pour yourself a drink, you're in for the long haul on this one.

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**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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