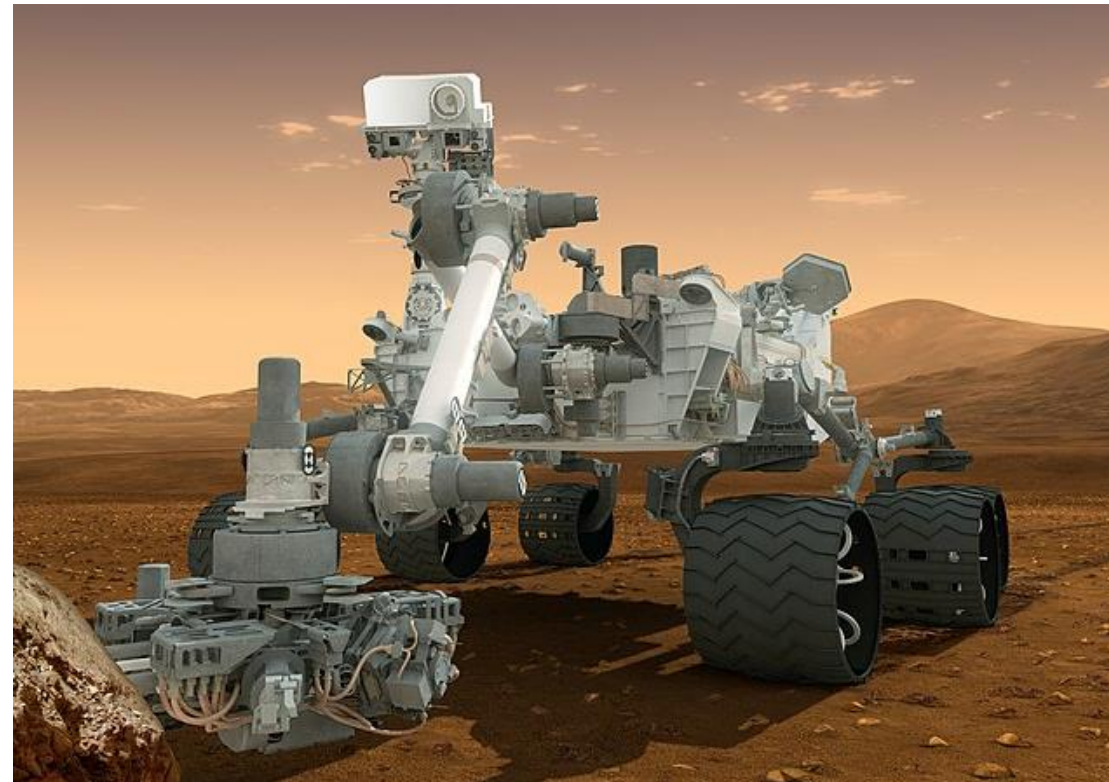
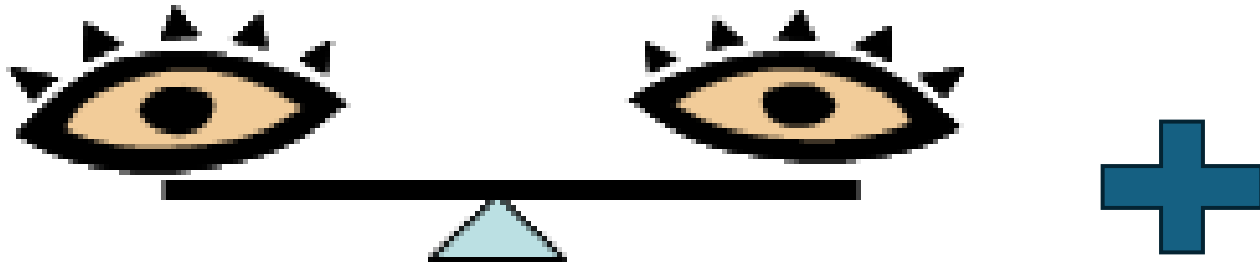


Why are we talking about compassion?



How do we think about the Best Interests of someone else's child?

At the shelter hearing, parents are given their first opportunity to present evidence to the juvenile court that the child can **safely** return home prior to dependency proceedings. [ORS 419B.185\(1\)](#). The court will then determine whether “it is in the best interests of the child or ward that the child or ward be removed from the home or continued in care.” [ORS 419B.185\(3\)\(d\)](#). Matter of J.P. 328 Or.App 502 (2023)

See also 419B.331 and .337 re Disposition after adjudication

See also 419B.449 (Review) “necessary” and BIOC

See also 419B.476 (Permanency hearing)

Applying Compassion in Child Welfare

- Compassion is a response to suffering, and is a desire to alleviate that suffering, or not add to it



- Suffering is difficult emotions or feelings that one does not want to have or is not allowed to have

- **Compassion = empathy + humility**
(the suffering and the alleviating is defined by the one experiencing the pain)

- Our feelings and emotions are valid, always in action and we must be aware of these as they interplay

Compassion vs. Benevolence

The benevolent pie



- Empathy
- + Humility
- + Desire to Act

How are we doing ?

As lawyers, as those in child welfare, and as community overall?

Rates of Depression

Rates of Anxiety

Loneliness Epidemic

Culture of grind

Drive to do more and meet needs



Decision fatigue

Lack of food or sleep

Stress

Time pressures

Fear of error

Vicarious trauma

Lack of values congruency

Lack of information

Cross cultural communication

Where did we learn to affirm or acknowledge our emotions in professional environment?

LAW SCHOOL?

**A SEPARATE AND
INTENTIONAL
TRAINING BY OUR
TRAINING OFFICE?**

**WHY DO WE
PRACTICE THIS
KIND OF LAW?**



Humility

- Humility of Skill
- Humility of Wisdom
- Humility of Knowledge
- Intellectual humility
- Common Humanity helps us here
- Generous Interpretation of Suffering



Just One Human

To be human is to experience Pain, painful experiences, discomfort, fear

To be human is to Suffer, to have suffering – none of us escape it

Suffering – to feel a way you don't want to feel, Resisting the truth of a painful experience

Examples of suffering for me: Duty, Ignoring Self, Anger, Creativity

Be kinder to myself and honor that these feelings are valid and real

A NATIONAL PASTIME OF JUDGING PARENTS

Not just in the child welfare world, but in every aspect of life, our society tends to judge parents harshly

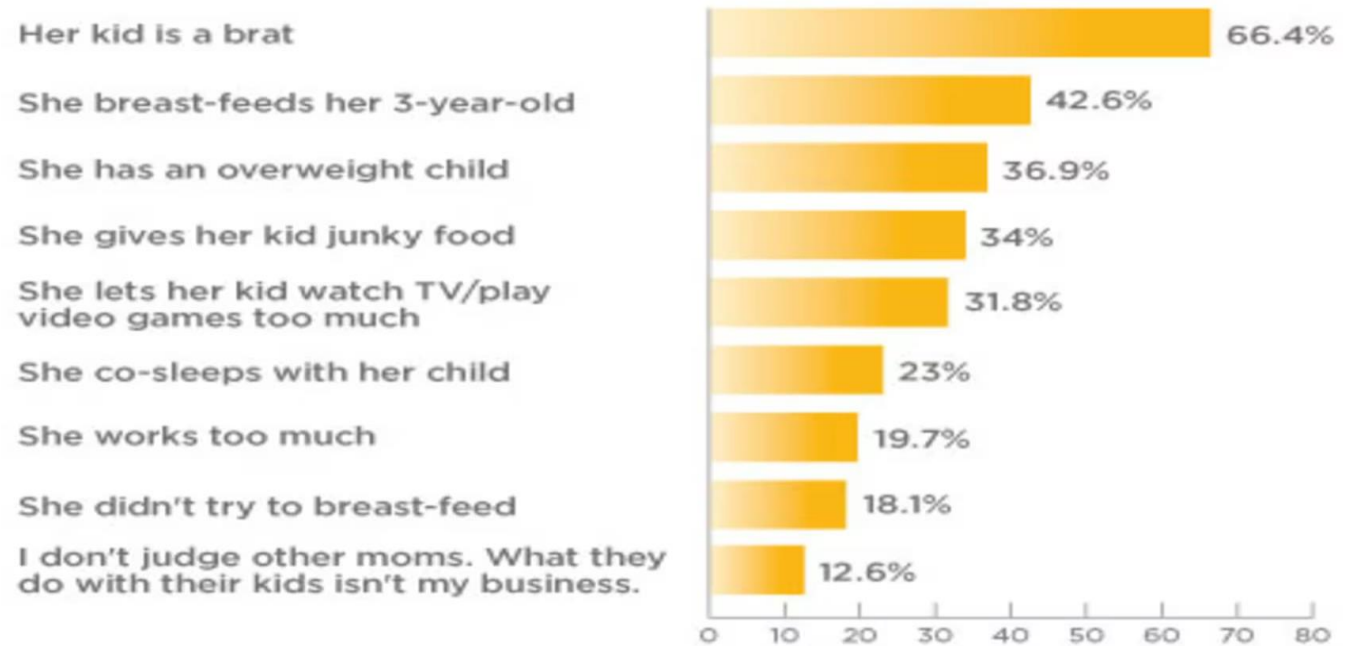


America leads the world in parental shaming

Survey finds a majority of parents in every one of 28 countries saying they feel judged by others at least sometimes with the U.S. showing the largest proportion, 92%, in a tie with Singapore. Concurrently, 89% of Americans who are not the parent of a child under 18 admit to judging parents at least sometimes, the third-highest proportion of any country surveyed.

Mommy Judging

Which parenting behavior might lead you to judge another mom?



Results based on TODAY.com/Parenting.com survey of 26,000 moms.

IMPACT OF PARENTAL SHAME



MORAL INFERENCE AND RATING RISK



Ana's child... we are constantly assessing risk in our work

Read the story you received about Ana

Think to YOURSELF - On a scale of 1-10 how much risk?

In the Mentimeter, enter your rating.

What if Ana's child is on a "trial return home"?



MORAL JUDGEMENT INCREASES OUR ASSESSMENT OF RISK

- **No Child Left Alone Research, the more immoral, the more risk assigned**
- **1300 people and vignettes about a child being left alone, and the level of risk changed depending on WHY parent left.**

“Consistently the researchers found that participants' perception of risk of harm to the child varied according to the parent's reason for leaving. Even more, assessment of danger to the child was distorted by a moral judgment imposed on the parent for leaving the child unattended, even in situations that posed little possibility of peril. Moral judgments thus biased individuals' ability to evaluate objectively whether the situation actually presented any realistic threat to the child.

Specifically, participants' condemnation of the parent inflated their own assessments of risk to the child. The less morally acceptable a parent's reason for leaving a child alone, the more danger people thought the child was in even if the situation was empirically and statistically low-risk. Stanford observes: “when people think they are judging danger to a child, much of what they are actually doing is imposing a moral judgment on the child's parents.”

COGNITIVE BIAS

- Be aware – what leaps are we making, what does evidence really say
- Calm emotions
- Generous interpretation of suffering



