In 1994 Jackie Goodnow and I published a theoretical paper on parent discipline and children’s internalization of values. The paper ended with a suggestion for how to conceptualize parents’ transmission of values to their children. This suggestion involved an elaboration of arguments made earlier by Cashmore and Goodnow that values need to be accurately perceived as well as accepted in order for value transmission to occur. Although the 1994 paper has been quite influential there have been only a few attempts over the years to address the roles of accurate perception and acceptance in the transmission of values.

Some recent work in my lab, however, carried out with Megan Johnston, is highly relevant. We studied mothers with a strong sense of moral identity, that is, who based their identity on the possession of moral rather than other kinds of values. We hypothesized that, to maintain consistency with their identity, these mothers would need to engage in moral behavior frequently and in an obvious way. Thus, as socializing agents, they would maximize accurate perception of their values by making those values very clear in their actions and their words. In accord with the accurate perception/acceptance proposal we have looked at maternal warmth and involvement as conditions that facilitate acceptance of these values. In my talk I will present data demonstrating the moderating impact of maternal warmth on the relation between mothers’ moral identity and their adolescents’ moral cognitions, affect, and behavior.

BIOGRAPHY
Joan Grusec is a Professor Emerita in the Department of Psychology at the University of Toronto. Her research interests involve the different mechanisms underlying socialization processes, the development of prosocial behavior, parent-child relationships, and the impact of parenting cognitions and affect on parenting behavior. She has authored many research papers and chapters, as well as two books, Punishment (with Gary Walters) and Social Development (with Hugh Lytton). Edited books include Foundations of Psychology, with Robert Lockhart and Gary Walters, Parenting and Children’s Internalization of Values, with Leon Kuczynski, and Handbook of Socialization, with Paul Hastings. A revision of the Handbook of Socialization has just been published.

Outside of university research, teaching, and administration, Grusec has been an Associate Editor of Developmental Psychology and has chaired the History Committee and been a member of the Publications Committee of the Society for Research in Child Development. She was Chair of the Examination Committee of the Associate of State and Provincial Psychology Boards from 2004-2012. Grusec is a Fellow of the Canadian Psychological Association, the American Psychological Association, and the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards.

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