

# **Can Society Function Without Ethical Agents? An Informational Perspective**

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## *Abstract* :

In order to function, society relies on many facts that must be learned through intermediaries with special expertise or access to information. This paper considers whether society can learn about such facts when intermediaries are devoid of ethical motives and act sequentially. The answer depends on the severity of information attrition affecting the amount of discoverable evidence about each fact. Information attrition is nonexistent in fields based on reproducible scientific evidence but can affect the evidence in criminal and corruption investigations. Applications to institution enforcement, social cohesion, scientific progress, and historical revisionism are discussed.