

Imagine you are standing beside some tram tracks. This is the crux of the classic thought experiment known as the trolley dilemma, developed by philosopher Philippa Foot in 1967 and adapted by Judith Jarvis Thomson in 1985. The trolley dilemma has since proven itself to be a remarkably flexible tool for probing our moral intuitions, and has been adapted to apply to various other scenarios, such as war, torture, drones, abortion and euthanasia. You realise that if you pull the lever, the tram will be diverted down a second set of tracks away from the five unsuspecting workers.