Rethinking the Milgrim obedience to authority experiment

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Milgrim’s experiment

• Background
  - “experimenter”
  - “teacher”
  - “learner”

• 65 percent of people “went all the way.”

• “Ordinary people, under the direction of an authority figure, would obey just about any order they were given, even to torture.”
Is the study misremembered?

• Situationism: is evil dormant in everyone?

• “Glaring issues with Milgram’s data”
  - supervisors went off script
  - volunteers were aware that the setup was a hoax
  - methodologically unsound

  1964: 10 articles
  2012: 60+ articles
Replication of study

- Santa Clara University and ABC:
  - 2007
  - Jerry Burger

- Similar obedience rate, what conclusion to draw?
Are we asking the right questions?

• Former question: Does evil lie dormant ready to be awakened with the right set of circumstances?

• New Question: Is the ability to disobey toxic orders a skill that can be taught like any other?