



Open your mind. LUT.

Lappeenranta **University of Technology**

Liars and Outliers: Chapter 17

CT60A7001 - Critical Thinking and
argumentation in Software Engineering

Discussion day 3
Artem Khvatov

The Future



Open your mind. LUT.
Lappeenranta University of Technology

- Society can't function without trust
- We need to trust people
 - Being close to people
 - Eating food they make
 - Using taxi
- We need to trust institutions to regulate laws and rules
- We need to trust security systems
- We even need to trust things we don't even understand yet
- It's not possible to determine who to trust or even make decisions about everything
 - There is too many people we interact with
 - Even more so interacted with indirectly (and who we never meet)

The Future



Open your mind. LUT.
Lappeenranta University of Technology

- Societal pressures help us trust people in general
 - It's better to just keep trusting and believing people
 - Even if sometimes trust is betrayed
- It's easier and more comfortable to live, knowing* you can trust people
 - *believing
- This is a normal state of the world we live in
 - There are risks
 - There are defectors
 - Security systems are not perfect

The Future



Open your mind. LUT.
Lappeenranta University of Technology

- “There will always be outliers”
- “No matter how much societal pressure you deploy, there always will be defectors.”
 - This fact won't change if our society is made of humans
- “Increasing societal pressure isn't always worth it.”
 - Strict enforced societies are not free
- “Societal pressures can prevent cooperation, too.”
 - Sometimes innocent people suffer

The Future



Open your mind. LUT.
Lappeenranta University of Technology

- “We all defect at some times regarding some things.”
 - Sometimes we are selfish or have another self-interest
 - Sometimes group norm conflicts with morality or another groups norm
- “There are good defectors and there are bad defectors, and we can't always tell the difference – even though we think we can.”
 - Killing is always bad (but is it really?)
 - Animal-rights activists think they are morally right
 - Soldiers in Iraq?
- “Society needs defectors.”
 - People who resist popular opinion are people who invent new things
 - U.S Marine saves comrades by disobeying orders and gets Medal of Honor

Questions



Open your mind. LUT.
Lappeenranta University of Technology

- Societal pressures, do we have just the right amount of them?
- What if everyone suddenly lost ability to make lies.
(For example if we could read minds)
 - Would our society get better?
 - Would our lives be more comfortable?