The Brain Basis for Morality

Many mammalian species, including humans, are highly social, and ethologists have observed cooperation, caring, and strong attachments among individuals. The neurobiological basis for sociality is very complex in mammals, but research shows that several peptides play a particularly important role; these include vasopressin and oxytocin. I shall outline what is known so far about how these peptides contribute to social behavior, including caring for others, and hence how they have a role in moral behavior.