Implicit Bias: The Roots of Implicit Bias and Dealing With It In Today's Legal Profession

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#### Land Acknowledgement

St. Louis is the original homeland of the Kiikaapoi, Miami, Osage, and Sioux peoples. We acknowledge the long and painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory, and we honor and respect the many diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land on which we gather.



# Bias

Prejudices, often based on assumptions, attitudes and stereotypes, in favor of, or against, a person/ community group.



# The Biology of Bias

- The Brain's Role
- The Schema of It All





VS





### **Three Buckets of Bias**

- 1. Explicit Bias
  - a. Overt acts of Discrimination, Racism, and Prejudice
  - b. Easiest to recognize because it is overt.
- 2. Institutional or Systematic Bias
  - a. Historical and cultural bias that routinely advantages one group over others, creating cumulative and chronic adverse outcomes
  - b. Exists as rules, procedures, or practices as a result of legislation, legal decisions or historical attitudes
- 3. Implicit Bias
  - a. Associating stereotypes or attitudes towards categories of people without conscious awareness.
  - b. Exists as patterns of behaviors or reactions to events or stimuli without thought

Type of Oppression	Variable	Advantaged	Disadvantaged
Racism	Race/ Ethnicity/ Color	White	People of Color
Sexism	Gender	Men	Women, Transgender individuals
Homophobia	Sexual Orientation	Heterosexuals	LGBTQ+ Individuals
Religious Oppression	Religion	Protestants	Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs
Classim	Socioeconomic Status	Owning, upper and middle class,	Poor, working class, wage owners
Elitism	Educational level/ place in hierarchy	College-educated; top 20- 40 schools	Not college educated; less prestigious schools
Xenophobia	Immigrant Status	U.S. born	Immigrants
Linguistic Oppression	Language	English Speakers	Non-English Speakers
Ableism	Physical or Mental ability	Able-bodied persons (body/ mind)	People with disabilities
Ageism	Age	Adults	Elders: 40+ by law; children, youth

#### Implicit biases

- Implicit biases can be more difficult to assess because they include **unconscious attitudes and beliefs**.
- We are typically unaware that we have these biases. However, while not as obvious, implicit biases can produce discriminatory behaviors.





# Affinity Bias

# Confirmation Bias

You Can't Fix What You Refuse to See

#### **Project Implicit**









manwhohasitall @manwhohasitall · Jul 7

ALL MEN! You CAN succeed in STEM! Don't let long standing bias, stereotypes, prejudice and systematic barriers hold you back. It's about individual choice. YOU GO BOYS!



manwhohasitall @manwhohasitall · 20h • TODAY'S FACT: The male brain is naturally wired to cook, clean, shop and get the kids' clothes ready the night before and we should absolutely celebrate that.



**manwhohasitall** @manwhohasitall · Jul 15 ···· Is it REALLY possible for men to juggle kids, housework, career, 2 or 3 almonds, water retention, healthy snacking, self-acceptance, perfect skin, a tiny waist and 'me time'?





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# Allyship

An active, consistent, and arduous practice of unlearning and re-evaluating, in which a person of privilege seeks to operate in solidarity with a marginalized group of people

(The Anti-Oppression Network)



### **Understanding Cultural Empathy**

Having an appreciation and consideration for the difference and similarities of another culture in comparison to one's own.

Cultural differences and similarities are the groundwork for a better world perspective

Cultural empathy is a skill that allows one to:

- Observe cognitive, emotional, and behavioural cues
- Provide appropriate responses to each unique situation
- *Reevaluate and adjust* your responses based on feedback

### **Cultural Empathy**

Proximity shatters stereotypes. Intentionally seek diversity in your everyday interactions.

Build connections across difference.

Volunteer within different communities.

Seek out opportunities where you are the minority in the group.

## Don't get defensive

- Mistakes are bound to happen.
- We are human. Be open to constructive criticism and actively listen to feedback
- Take a Deep Breath
- This may be uncomfortable, but you are not unsafe.
- Accept responsibility for any impact and welcome correction as a learning opportunity.
- Try not to retreat, but seek to engage

Why it Matters

# Thank you!