



The University of Texas at Austin College of Natural Sciences

#### **Bias Busting Across the Center: A Model** to Interrupt Bias and Promote Inclusion



Modeled on Google's BiasBusting@Work and Carnegie Mellon's Bias Busters @ CMU





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## **Learning Outcomes**

- Understand the role that biases play, positively & negatively
- Reduce the impact of bias in our community
- Practice being an ally using role plays and scenarios

Our hope is that you leave here having a better sense of your own biases and understand why we have to work as a community to recognize bias in ourselves and others.





### **"Start where you are.** Use what you have. Do what you can."

- Arthur Ashe



#### **RESPECT (Share & Listen with Respect)**

- Recognize your communication style
- Expect to learn something from yourself & others
- Speak clearly & use personal examples when making a point
- Participate honestly & openly
- Engage in the process by listening as well as speaking
- Confidentiality/Curiosity/Charity
- Take responsibility for yourself & what you say





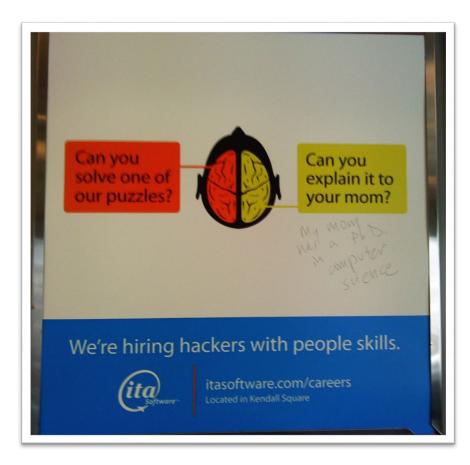
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# What is said here, stays here.

# What is learned here, leaves here.



#### **STEM Stereotypes**







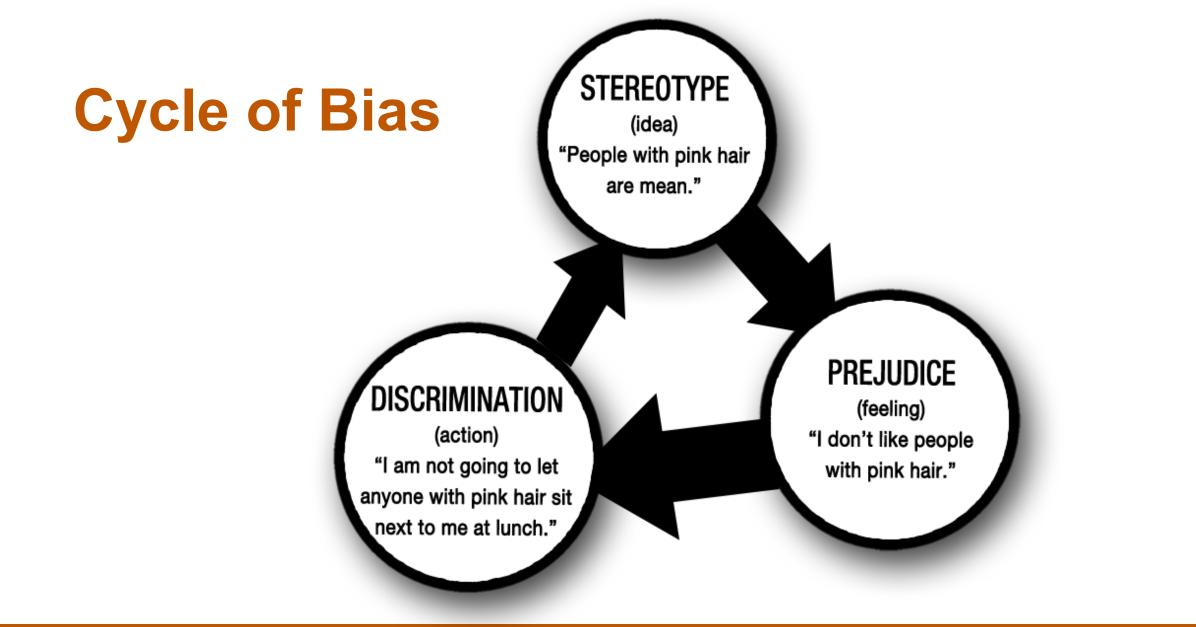


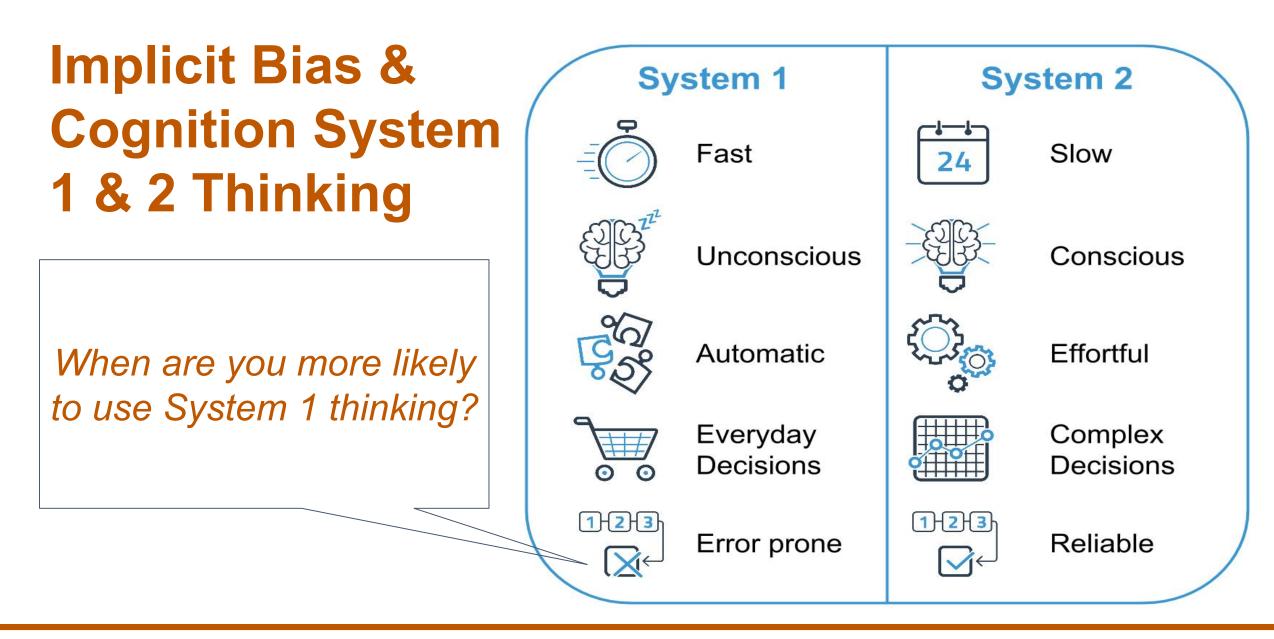
- What is a stereotype?
- Who can be stereotyped?
- Do stereotypes impact some groups more than others?



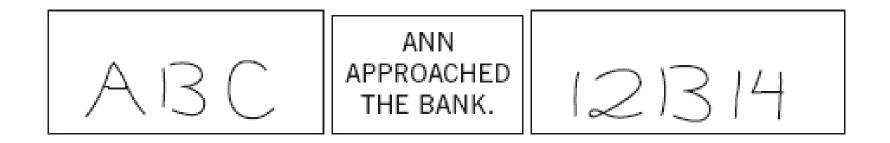
# How are stereotypes and bias connected?





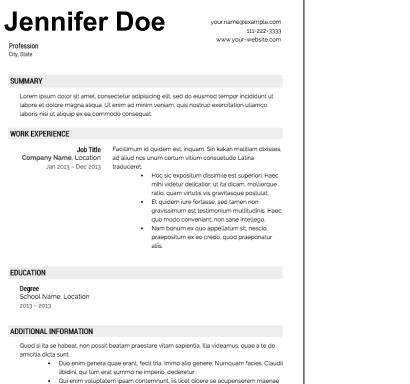


#### Read these three boxes to yourself



Adapted from Thinking, Fast and Slow, by Daniel Kahneman

#### **Bias affects our decisions**



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SUMMARY	
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EDUCATION	
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## On your own, think of....

A well-reasoned, carefully justified bias you know you hold.

A bias you have & don't quite know whether or not it's justified or not. An unjustifiable, indefensible problematic bias you know you hold.

Ex. I like dogs more than cats.

Ex. Dogs are better than cats.

Ex. People with cats are weird and aloof.

 $\leftarrow$  what would shift this one way or the other?  $\rightarrow$ 

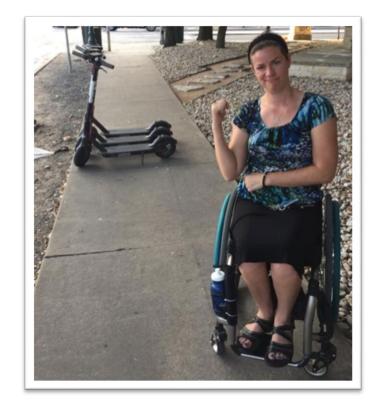


#### Let's talk about inclusion



## **Awareness & Inclusion**

- What are other examples of places or situations that are not inclusive?
- What about in STEM?
- What can we do to make these places or situations inclusive?



"Folks need to realize not everyone has the privilege of being able to walk around these obstacles to continue on their way to work, school or play!" – Emily Shryock, Assistant Director, UT Services for Students with Disabilities, August 2018

#### **Video: HP Face-Tracking Computer**



If you do not intentionally include, you may unintentionally exclude.



#### Inclusion needs Allies: Become an Ally

When you are in a bias situation, dominant groups have the best opportunity to step in as allies.

- We can all be allies!
- Each of us needs to decide if, and how, and when, intervening might be appropriate.

#### Recognize. Choose. Act.

# **Tips for interrupting bias**

Each of us needs to decide if, when, and how intervening might be appropriate.

- Point it out
- Divert the conversation and revisit privately
- Ask questions
- Share why it matters to you-use "I" statements
- Ask the speaker to see from another point of view
- Avoid humor as it can backfire

When it's riskiest to intervene may be when it's most important!

## Format for role play

- Pick a role in the upcoming scenarios:
  - $\circ$  Person A
  - Person B
  - Person C: Ally who takes action to show support
  - Observer/Reporter: Observes the group role play and will report out what happened, what worked, and what didn't work
- Act it out
- Switch roles
- Try another action

#### Let's try!! (Remember our rules!)



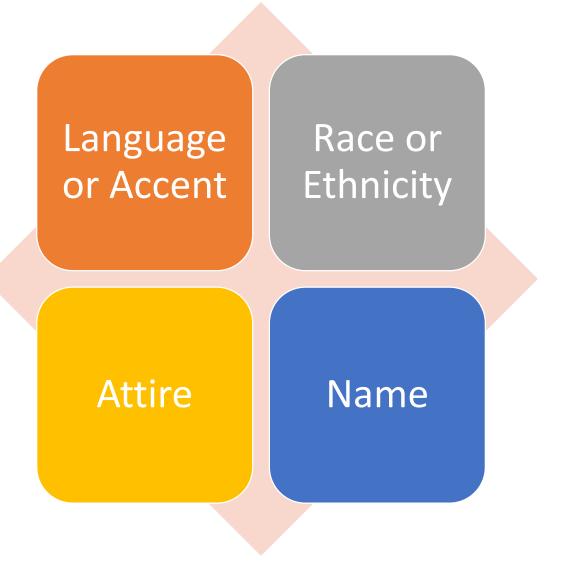
#### RESPECT

- Recognize your communication style
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At a tour for newcomers, Person A approaches newly hired Person B and Person C.

- A: Hi Enrique, how are things going?
- B: Hi Scott, I'm still learning to find my way around. (laughs).
- A: (laughs) I know what you mean. Where are you from?
- B: Houston
- A: No .... where are you really from?
- C (ally): (takes action to show support for B)

Stereotyping and unconscious bias could be based on many characteristics



#### **Role Play Scenario: Example Responses**

At a tour for newcomers, Person A approaches newly hired Person B and Person C.

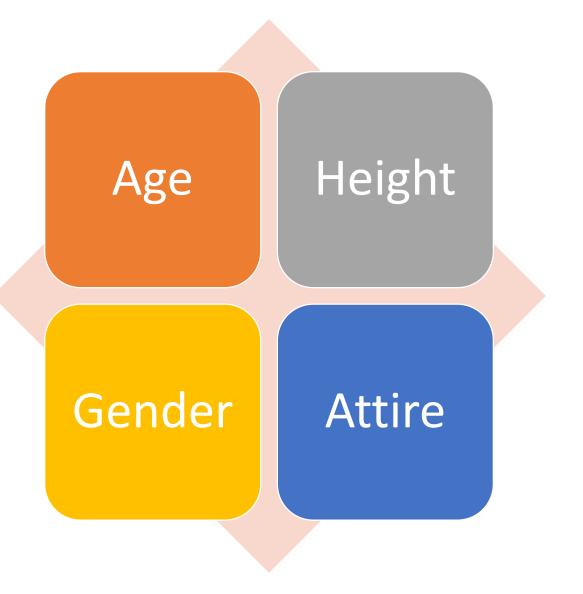
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- B: Hi Scott, I'm still learning to find my way around. (laughs).
- A: (laughs) I know what you mean. Where are you from?
- B: Houston
- A: No .... where are you really from?
- C (ally): Rephrase Question to B: What part of Houston are you from? Confirm to A: He's definitely from Houston....born and raised! Ask A: Where are you really from? Support B: I'm from Houston too!



You are at a conference reception for registered participants which includes professionals, academics and students. You overhear the following conversation:

A: Oh, nice to meet you. Where do you go to school?B: What do you mean, I'm an engineer at XYZ Company.A: Oh. You look so young; like you could be a student!?C (ally): (intervenes)

Stereotyping and unconscious bias could be based on many characteristics



You are in a staff or project meeting with your project team (male manager, 5 male team members and 1 female team member).

A: Let's get started. Who would like to take notes today?
B: Jessica did a great job last time. Jessica, how about you do it again?
A: That's a great idea. Jessica?

C (ally): (intervenes) again

At an orientation event for new students to UT Austin, Person A approaches new students Person B and Person C.

A: "Hi Enrique, how are things going?"
B: "Hi Scott, I'm still learning to find my way around." (laughs).
A: (laughs) "I know what you mean. Where are you from?"
B: "Houston"
A: "No .... where are you really from?"
C (ally): (takes action to show support for B)

Three members of a student organization are discussing who should be put forward for the leadership position. They are disagreeing over two people, Jasmine and Steve, who have the same skills.

- A: "Jasmine is really talented, but she's abrasive. Steve is talented too but just needs to learn to be more patient."
- B: "I don't find Jasmine abrasive. She's confident."
- A: "She's bossy and comes on too strong. Steve is the one that exudes confidence."
- B: (scratches head and is unsure whether to argue more...)

C (ally): (intervenes)

Students are gathering before a calculus class. The following is overheard:

A (white student): Ugh... this class will not be good for my GPA B (white student): I know, right? All the Asians in this class are going to kill the curve! A: (continues the conversation...) C (ally): (intervenes)





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#### You Belong Here Workshops: continue your learning

- Bias Busting
- Managing Micromessaging
- Inclusion Through Identities
- Countering Stereotype Threat

- Inclusive Organization Leadership
- Creating Inclusive Spaces
- Navigating the Workplace





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SURVEY

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#### **Bias Busting Across Campus**

#### Building a more inclusive environment



