

Social Bias: Interdisciplinary Perspectives¹

What is it to say a person or institution has a social bias (e.g., is racist, sexist, etc.)? How are social prejudices acquired in the process of development and socialization, and spread between individuals and institutions? And how can we measure or qualify biases? This seminar will involve an in-depth look at social bias from ethical, psychological, and sociological perspectives. To capture the interdisciplinary nature of this phenomenon, we will review a range of topics and research programs from philosophy, psychology, neuroscience, computer science, gender studies, and political science.

This course aims to:

- Introduce students to social bias, which is an umbrella term referring to a wide range of mental attitudes and social structures.
- Give students a sense of the contemporary debates that are currently taking place within and across the disciplines that make up contemporary bias research.
- Enable students to understand social bias as both an individual/psychological phenomenon and also a collective/political phenomenon, appreciating how (and when) these perspectives differ and come together.
- Facilitate students' research skills such that they are comfortable reading and engaging with scholarly articles and planning and executing research papers that advance their own views.

Readings

Week 1: Implicit vs. Explicit: What are Biases?

Alex Madva & Michael Brownstein: "Stereotypes, Prejudice, and the Taxonomy of the Implicit Social Mind"

David Amodio & Mina Cikara "The Social Neuroscience of Prejudice"

Katherine Puddifoot: "Stereotyping: A Multifactorial View"

Week 2: Bias and Automaticity

Nick Byrd and Morgan Thompson: "Testing for Implicit Bias: Values, Psychometrics, and Science Communication"

Daniela Schiller et al. "A Neural Mechanism for First Impressions"

Jessie Munton: "Prejudice as a Misattribution of Salience"

Week 3: The Structure of Bias I: Bias as Propositional Attitudes

¹ Optional readings in italics

Eric Mandelbaum: “Attitude, Inference, Association: On the Propositional Structure of Implicit Bias”

Andy Egan: “Seeing and Believing: Perception Belief Formation and the Divided Mind”

Endre Begby: “*The Epistemology of Prejudice*”

Week 4: The Structure of Bias II: Bias as Association

Tamar Gendler: “Alief and Belief”

Alex Madva: “Why Implicit Attitudes are Probably Not Beliefs”

[*Alternative Account: Bence Nanay “Implicit Bias as Mental Imagery”*]

Week 5: How Bias Motivates Discrimination

Erin Beeghly: “Stereotyping as Discrimination: Why Thoughts Can Be Discriminatory”

Jules Holyroyd: “The Social Psychology of Discrimination”

Katriana Rassumen: “*Bias and Discrimination*”

Week 6: Bias in Language: Generalizations and Generics

Sarah-Jane Leslie: “The Original Sin of Cognition: Fear, Prejudice and Generalization”

Andrei Cimpian: “The Impact of Generic Language About Ability on Children’s Achievement”

Daniel Wodak, Sarah-Jane Leslie, Marjorie Rhodes: “*What a Loaded Generalization: Generics in Social Cognition*”

Week 7: Bias and Concept Essentialism

Eleanor Neufeld: “Psychological Essentialism and the Structure of Concepts”

Alexander Noyes, Frank Keil, Yarrow Dunham, & Kate Ritchie: “Same people, different group: Social structures are a central component of group concepts”

Shannon Spaulding & Guillermo Del Pinal: “*Conceptual Centrality and Implicit Bias*”

Week 8: Bias in Nonverbal Communication

Allison Skinner, Adeline Osnaya, Bhumi Patel, & Sylvia Perry: “Mimicking Others’

Nonverbal Signals is Associated with Increased Attitude Contagion”

Austin A. Baker: “Nonverbal Marginalization”

Chanel Meyers, Amanda William, Max Weisbuch & Kristin Pauker: “*Bias Contagion Across Racial Group Boundaries*”

Week 9: Bias in Artificial Intelligence

Gabrielle Johnson: “Algorithmic Bias: On the Implicit Biases of Social Technology”

Abebia Birhane: “Algorithmic injustice: a relational ethics approach”

Sina Fazelpour & David Danks: “*Algorithmic Bias: Senses, Sources, Solutions*”

Week 10: Bias in the Criminal Justice

Jennifer Eberhardt, Paul Davies, Valerie Purdie-Vaughns, & Sheri Lynn Johnson: “Looking Deathworthy: Perceived Stereotypicality of Black Defendants Predicts Capital Sentencing Outcomes”

Tzu-Wei Hung & Chun-Ping Yen: “Predictive Policing and Algorithmic Fairness”

Jules Holyroyd: “Implicit Bias and the Anatomy of Institutional Racism”

Week 11: Debiasing Interventions: Individualism

Kao-Wei Chua and Jon Freeman: “Facial Stereotype Bias Is Mitigated by Training”

Alex Madva: “Individual and Structural Interventions”

Dan Kelly, Luc Faucher, & Edouard Machery: “Getting Rid of Racism: Assessing Three Proposals in Light of Psychological Evidence”

Week 12: Debiasing Interventions: Structuralism

Sally Haslanger: “What is a Social Structural Explanation?”

Chole Fitzgerald et al. “Interventions Designed to Reduce Implicit Prejudices and Implicit Stereotypes In Real Work Contexts: A Systematic Review”

Heidi Vuletich & Keith Payne: “Stability and Change in Implicit Bias”

Week 13: Bias and Moral Responsibility

Robin Zhang: “Attributability, Accountability, and Implicit Bias”

Eleanor Mason: “Respecting Each Other and Taking Responsibilities for Our Biases”