



2020 Virtual LULAC Federal Training Institute Partnership "A Month of Development"

Webinar:

Leveraging the Power of Intentional Inclusion

Speaker:

Manuel "Manny" Ramirez
Diversity and Inclusion Trainer
Department of Homeland Security



Let's go on a journey...





Unconscious Bias – What Is It?





Unconscious Bias – What Is It?

- Bias is neither good nor bad; it's simply a function of the mind
- THROUGHOUT HISTORY: Bias kept us alive many years ago as it served as a "danger detector"
- TODAY: We ask ourselves, is bias a friend or foe????
- Helpful process when we're conscious and aware of bias, and it can be very dangerous when we're not aware



Unconscious Bias

Let's get something straight...

If you have a brain, you have bias...





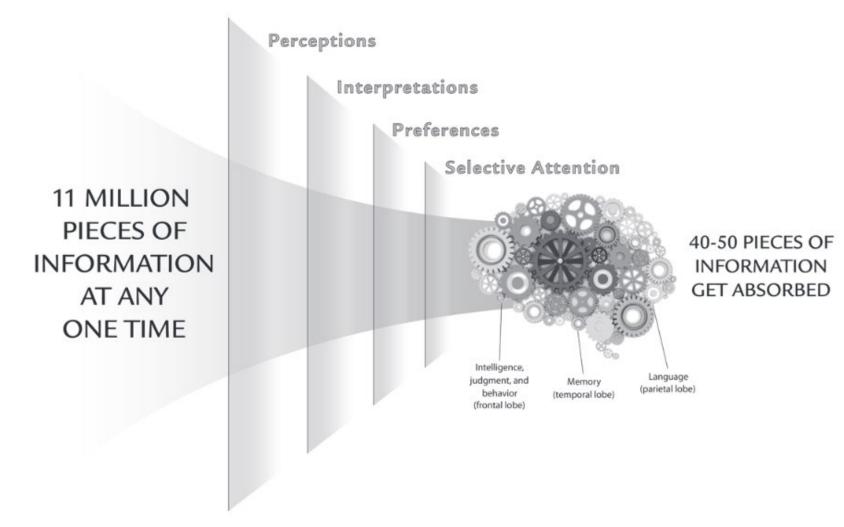
What Do You See?







From Raw Data to Action





Common Types of Biases

A few of the known unconscious biases that directly impact the workplace include:

• Like Me bias - Warming up to people like ourselves

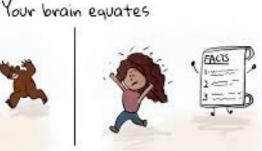
 Halo effect - Thinking everything about a person is good because of one positive attribute





 Confirmation bias - Seeking information that confirms pre-existing beliefs or assumptions







Good or Bad?

Biases are not good or bad...they just are.

How we *USE* them when we make decisions...that's where the good vs. bad comes in...

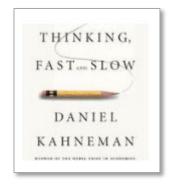




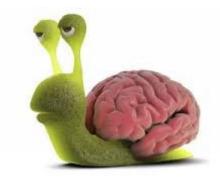
Unconscious Bias is Fast Thinking



Biases help us make quick decisions – we could say bias is "fast thinking"

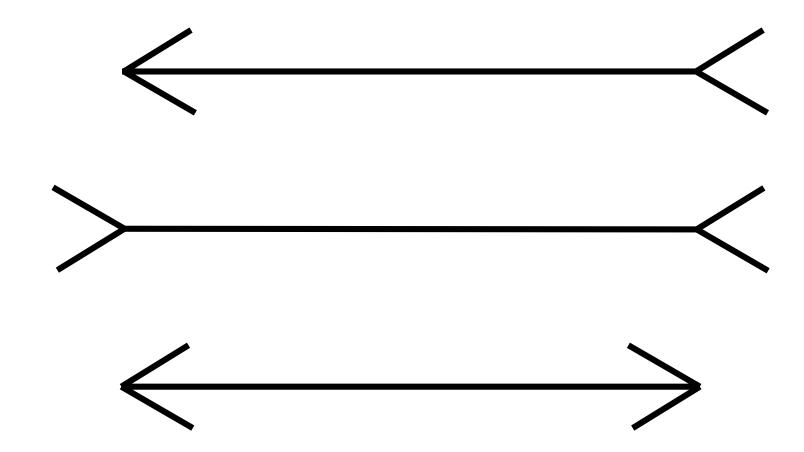


The problem comes in when we use "fast thinking" when we should be using "slow thinking" – being deliberate, rational and logical.





Fast thinking at work...





If you do not intentionally, deliberately and proactively include, you will unintentionally exclude



Micro-Messages

Micro-messages: Social signals we send to one another through our behavior

"Micro" or subtle behaviors are small, but their impact can be *enormous*





Micro-Inequities

- Small slights we send other people that cause them to feel devalued, slighted, discouraged or excluded
- Subtle interactions which are perceived as imbalances of human actions, communicating who is in the inner circle and who is not





The "Real" Pain of Exclusion

Social and Physical Pain Produce Similar Brain Responses

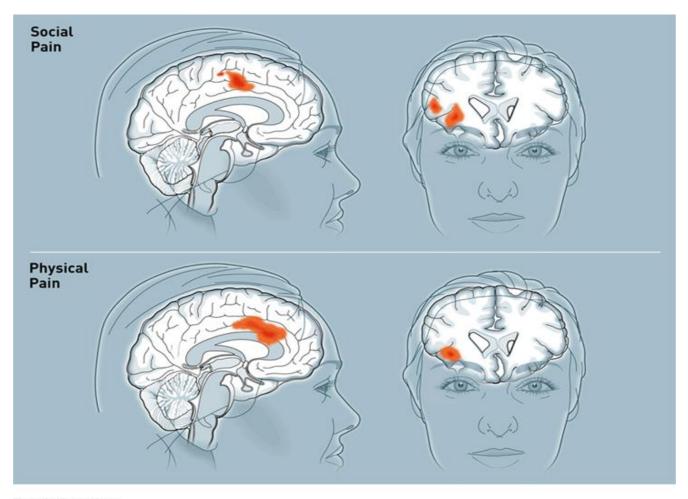


Illustration: Samuel Valasco

Source: Eisenberger, Lieberman, and Williams, Science, 2003 [social pain images]; Lieberman et al., "The Neural Correlates of Placebo Effects: A Disruption Account," Neuroimage, May 2004 [physical pain images]



Examples of Micro-Inequities

- Constantly being interrupted while you are talking
- Being left out of a discussion/project
- Trying to speak with someone who is reading/sending e-mails during conversation
- Talking with someone who keeps looking at his/her watch
- Not being introduced in a meeting and then being ignored

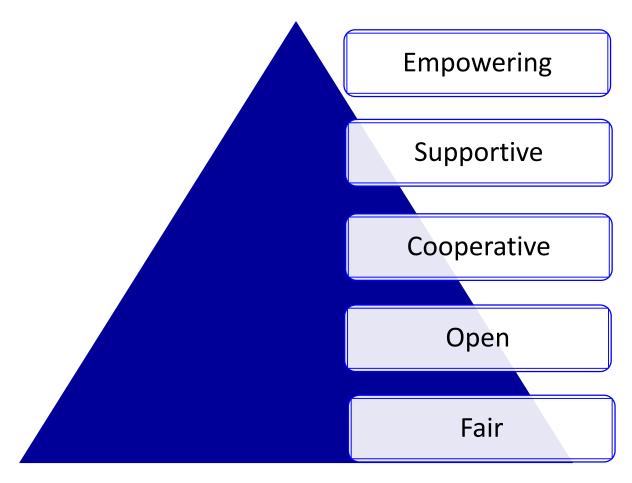


Micro-Affirmations

- Supportive signals that cause people to feel valued, important, or encouraged
- Conscious and intentional actions that can be taken to ensure people feel included, a sense of belonging, and engaged



5 Habits of an Inclusive Leader



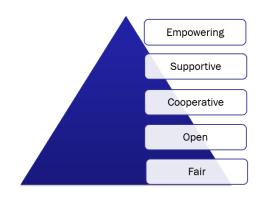


What Can I Do?

- Zero tolerance for stereotypes (Fair/Supportive)
- Get outside of your comfort zone (Open)
- Be curious about those with different styles, talents, and backgrounds (Open)
- Diversify your social and professional networks (Open)
- Seek out and respect diverse perspectives (Open/Supportive)
- Understand we are smarter together and lead by example (Open/Cooperative/Supportive/Empowering)
- Have regular conversations about career development and performance (Fair/Supportive/Empowering)
- Mentor or be mentored by someone different than you (Open/Cooperative/Supportive/Empowering)



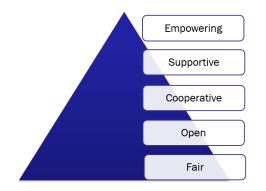
It starts with you – be the change you want to see



What Can I Do for My Team?

- Encourage collaboration to cross-pollinate skills and ideas (Open/Cooperative/Supportive)
- Develop and use standardized interview questions (Fair)
- Recommend diverse interview panels and usage of anonymous resumes (Fair)
- Emphasize the need for IDPs and monitor them regularly (Fair/Open/Supportive)
- Review current process and procedures for potential bias (Fair)
- Engage with empathy (Supportive)





Habit Formation – Make it Stick



- 1. Make it tiny
- 2. Find a spot
- 3. Train the cycle

Motivation gets you started.
HABIT keeps you going.



Summary

- Unconscious bias is not good or bad, but it does affect our behaviors in everything we do
- Fast thinking will always be there, but we must be deliberate in using slow thinking to make sound decisions free of bias
- Micro-inequities are small and subtle behaviors that can have a large impact on the work culture and team dynamics
- Inclusion starts with "I" lead from your seat with inclusive habits
- Raise self-awareness and be mindful of our behaviors and the effects on others
- Make self-reflection a habit to continue a growth mindset



QUESTIONS?





THANK YOU!



Manny Ramirez

Email: <u>manuel.ramirez@hq.dhs.gov</u>

Mobile: (202) 870-0528