April 10, 2014

Greetings from NC PDCORE! Our post this week is about implicit bias. Enjoy!

For all you quiz-happy, procrastinating types out there, NC PDCORE has a gift: the [Implicit Association Test](https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/education.html) (IAT), found on the “[Other Tools](http://ncids.com/pd-core/?page_id=261)” section of the [NC PDCORE website](http://ncids.com/pd-core/). For those who haven’t already taken it, the IAT measures those unconscious attitudes, associations, or stereotypes—dubbed “implicit biases”— that live within each of us. The social science wonks tell us that our behavior is affected by all kinds of factors other than deliberative decision making, implicit biases among them. Some of these are harmless, but when it comes to implicit *racial* biases, the effects can be [particularly tragic](http://www.twincities.com/columnists/ci_25203026/goff-ifill-seeing-race-save-our-children).

                The IAT lets you take a series of short tests that take no more than 10 minutes of your time to measure your own level of implicit bias in a number of different categories. The test isn’t designed to tell you that you are or aren’t a racist but to help you expose and dislodge associations that have seeped in despite your best intentions. The good news is that when it comes to implicit biases, the adage that knowledge is power proves true: admitting that you may have some is the first step in working to minimize their effects on your behavior.

When a lot of us, myself included, talk about implicit racial biases in the criminal justice system, our minds immediately go to everyone else. The prosecutors! The police! The judges! The juries! The reality, of course, is that implicit bias affects anybody who is human. Since change starts at home, I bit the bullet and took the test. It was a fun way to spend a few minutes, and every small effort to reduce my own biases in my practice is worth it. If you agree, or if you just want to mess about with another online quiz, I encourage you to give the IAT a try.

                Happy quizzing!

Elizabeth Gerber

We would love for you to join our organization! You will find the link to do so on the bottom right portion of the [webpage](http://ncids.com/pd-core/). If you have feedback about *Race Judicata*, we’d love to hear from you. Please respond to the original poster only, rather than the APD listserv.