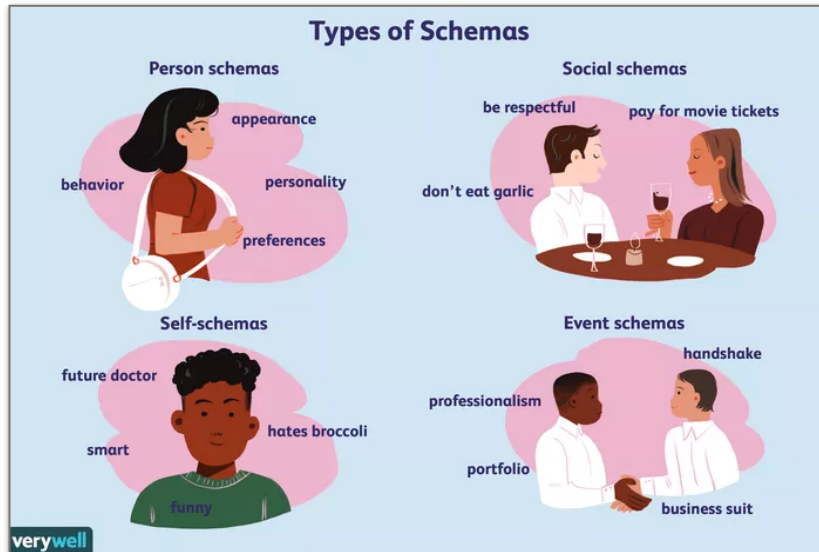


Prejudice

Schema of Prejudice



Understanding Schema

A schema is a cognitive framework or concept that helps organize and interpret information (Cherry, 2019). In an attempt to more easily make sense of the information around us, people use their prior knowledge to make associations. Schema is helpful for distinguishing things and making sense of the world around us quickly. However, existing schema's can hinder the learning of new information (Cherry, 2019).

Changing Your Schema of Prejudices

1

IDENTIFY

Identify your prejudices.

2

EDUCATE

Seek out resources to educate yourself.

3

SHARE

Find someone to talk to about it.

Resources on Prejudice and Teaching



[Schema in Psychology](#)

The role of schema in psychology.



[Consciousness Gap in Education](#)

Dorinda Carter Andrews TED Talk.



[How to Talk about Race](#)

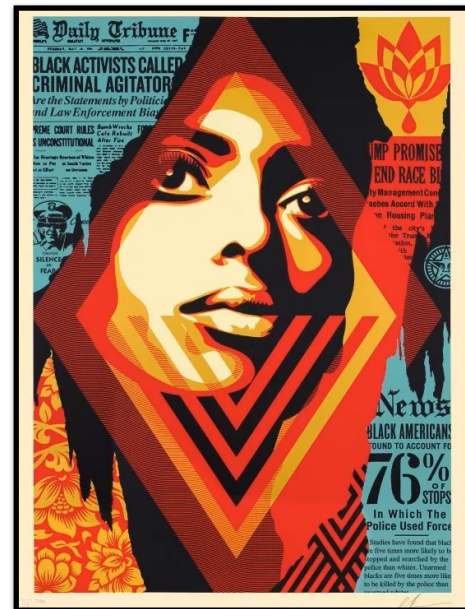
NPR discusses talking about race with young children.

Schema of Prejudice

What is your pre-existing schema around racial prejudice?

Based on your background, life experiences, and personal beliefs, everyone has developed their own schema around racial prejudice. It is important to recognize how we organize our schema's. We form a schema by both assimilation and accommodation. In order to change our schema around race and prejudice, we must know how they are altered. Assimilation is the incorporation of new information into a pre-existing schema (Cherry, 2019). While, accommodation is the altering of a pre-existing schema or the formation of a new schema (Cherry, 2019). Again, once a schema is formed, it is much harder to change. This also includes time. As we get older our schema's have been found to be harder to change.

“...people will only begin to slowly change their schemas when inundated with a continual barrage of evidence pointing to the need to modify it (Cherry, 2019).”



Shepard Fairey, 2018

To change our schema around racial prejudices, we must actively recognize where our information, ideas and beliefs are coming from. We need to be honest with ourselves and recognize where we fall short. In my rural white community, I was never taught about race. Living and working in Chicago, I've needed to actively change my own schema around racial prejudices. It's inherently uncomfortable to face underlying biases, but it is only by facing them that we can change them.

REFERENCES/RESOURCES

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