Philip Dumaresq

Values in the workplace

Leslie Elliot

Implicit association test

Race, Age and sexual orientation

I was really surprised by the outcome of this little test, and I totally disagree with the outcome for all the tests that I took. I did the age, race and sexual orientation one and I was strongly favoring straight, white, young people, which really surprised me. I have an incredibly inclusive group of friends comprised largely of gay, bisexual and transgender people. In fact, being straight, I’m in a minority within my group of friends. So especially the sexual orientation one took me by surprise. The race one surprised me a little less, not because I’m racist in any way, but just because I don’t have a lot of friends of color. I don’t spend a lot of time around people of color, so I guess it surprised me a little less, but I still strongly disagree with that outcome.

I think the test was flawed in the fact that it would show long sequences of good/bad and then switch once we were in the space of going left or right. I don’t think that this shows whether or not we’re discriminating against white or black people or against gay/straight people, I think it’s just a test of how quickly you can associate correct sequences of objects and words. Like Zack was saying, I don’t think that the results would change if you were to replace the images of white/black, gay/straight people with those of fruits, vegetables or even something like green/blue. I don’t think that the results would be much different.

I think that people can change their unconscious biases. I mean, if you put effort into changing certain actions and habits, which are subconscious things, you can change the ways that you do things, so I don’t see a reason why it would be any different between unconscious biases. I watched a video of a gay teenager coming out to his conservative Christian father one time (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JJM0ewta0I> I think this is the video) on YouTube and his father had kind of thought his son was gay, and because he loved him, his own thoughts on gay people began to change, and when this video was finally taken, he was more less okay with gay people. Even though this kid had grown up in an environment where gay people were sinners and would go to hell and stuff like that. Yet his father over the course of years of suspicion of his son changed the way he thought about it. So yes, I think that it is possible to change the way people thing about things subconsciously.