



Dr. Itiel Dror, Principal Consultant and Researcher in Cognitive Neuroscience

Monday, September 21, 2020

6:00 – 7:30pm EST

Title: How Bias Impacts All of Us, Even Expert Forensic Decision Making

Abstract: Forensic experts are heavily relied upon as their judgment and decision making is regarded as objective and impartial. Drawing from the field of criminal justice, I will present research and evidence from real casework that many different types of biases affect even experts, including fingerprinting, toxicology and DNA forensic decision making. Forensic evaluations can be highly impacted and distorted by irrelevant contextual information or even by the context in which information is presented or obtained. Confirmation bias and other cognitive biases that I will discuss are implicit and impact hardworking, dedicated and competent experts, and thus are widespread but hard to detect. I will articulate the psychological mechanisms by which forensic experts can make biased and erroneous decisions. Then I will show how this research can assist in identifying such weaknesses and in providing practical ways to mitigate them.

Itiel Dror (PhD Harvard) is a cognitive neuroscientist who is interested in the cognitive architecture that underpins expert decision making. Dror's research, published in over 130 research articles, demonstrated how contextual information can influence judgments and decision making of experts. He has worked in a variety of domains, from policing and aviation, to medical experts and bankers, showing that even hardworking and competent experts can make unintentional errors in evaluating data. Dr. Dror has worked with many agencies in various countries to minimize error and enhance decision making.

More information is available at Cognitive Consultants International: www.cci-hq.com

Please read important background information before the presentation:

- * An overview from the journal *Science*: <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/360/6386/243/tab-pdf>
- * The sources of bias and how to fight them: <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.analchem.0c00704>
- * All about forensic decision making: <http://www.cci-hq.com/forensic-identification.html>

Zoom Link: <https://duq.zoom.us/j/94716727512?pwd=WkFPNFh5OFExd2VsNm0xZzdZWVM5dz09>

