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Assignment 5.2 Reflections on-Implicit Association Test (IAT)

SOSC 2010

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I am choosing to reflect on SOSC 1010 Assignment 1.2 - Implicit Association Test Reflections paper. This paper was to be written after taking the IAT in class. Reflecting on our own biases and findings after reflecting. This was one of the first assignments in SOSC 1010.

As I read through the paper it was really shocking how my white fragility really was showing. Even while I was taking the test I was so worried that it was going to tell me I was a “racist” that I specifically tried to get the best result that I could. I think that mindset in itself is really interesting, by doing that I was failing to acknowledge the complexities between simply “being racist” and the many, many layers of racism that are deeply steeped into our culture. Having implicit bias in itself is not the downfall of our society. Having implicit biases that are made clear to us is the beginning of the process. Simply trying to get a score that shows how “woke” I am is defeating the point.

As I read through my assignment it was made really apparent to me that I was truly afraid to “do it wrong”. I feel like that is something that has really shifted for me, I know I will mess up. I know now that I was not spared from benefiting from a racist society that was built to serve me. I

know now that there is no *outsmarting* the system. With all of that being said, I know now that I have to fight like hell to be cognizant of the times that I **do** mess up, and I need to own that, apologize to anyone that I may have hurt in the process of learning and then move forward. I need to conscientiously use my privilege to support and amplify members of underserved communities.

In the clinical setting, I work in a birth center with 4 other midwives. We live in a predominantly white area and 95% of our clientele is white, middle class, cis-gendered, heterosexual women. Despite being in Washington where even 30 minutes south the population diversifies exponentially. I live in a navy town on the peninsula where over half of our city is inhabited by military folks. The birth center I work at is owned by a Navy Wife and the only midwife that takes military insurance. The other day we had a meeting with a black couple, and the meeting went well—however shortly after the meeting we got a call that the couple left care. The midwives shrugged it off and I inquired about why they left care. No one really seemed to know, and I asked the owner “do you think they felt safe here? And like we are providing culturally competent care?” The owner essentially told me that she thinks that they likely wanted an epidural and they “did their homework” and decided on the location that was right for them. While this may be the case it really got me thinking. I don’t think that our birthing center is one that is truly providing culturally competent care. There is another student, also white who is currently working there and ultimately her goal after graduating is to practice midwifery in Africa, while sharing “her god” with those she “serves”. This makes me feel really uncomfortable, in fact when I think about it I actually have a visceral response to it. While the assignment prompt is geared more towards working with families that identify as a part of a

culture other than my own. I feel like this situation in a lot of ways is more applicable to where I am currently at. I feel very uncertain about how to best interact with this other student. And this got me thinking. I have a lot of implicit biases around religion, especially christianity. While, christians are not a minority and they are not under attack in the United States, and while I understand how the other students' goals are problematic and currently causing harm. This weeks discussion board really opened my eyes to how complex providing culturally competent care really is. I feel like I am in a really odd and uncomfortable position, I tend to vere in the direction of being as anti-confrontational as possible which doesn't always serve me, because I then stew over conversations that I feel like I should have had. This placement isn't where I want to be for many reasons but I feel like I have no other choice but to be in this placement to get the numbers I need. Ethically I feel conflicted. But, I do think this is a good opportunity for growth, I just need to figure out how exactly to grow from this.