

# IGSN - SYMPOSIUM

Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 2024 • 15.00 (3 pm)

FNO – 01 / 117

## **The Neuroscience of Unconscious Bias**

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## The Social Neuroscience of Implicit Bias: A Memory Systems Account

Despite 40 years of research documenting the existence of implicit bias, its cognitive and neural underpinnings remain poorly understood. Indeed, an implicit effect expressed indirectly in behavior, often without awareness—is by definition difficult to describe explicitly. However, a consideration of the neural systems that support nondeclarative (i.e., implicit) learning and memory suggests an explanatory framework for implicit bias, as well as models of how such biases may form and change. I will present social neuroscience evidence for different forms of implicit bias, rooted in semantic, Pavlovian, and instrumental learning, which in turn have different implications for their acquisition, expression, and reduction.

### Host:

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