

THINKING ABOUT THINKING - AN INVITATION

This seminar is an invitation for well educated, lifelong learners to explore together our amazing abilities to think. We can solve novel problems, create new ideas, appreciate beauty, and much, much more. We know, however, that we also make irrational, biased, and wrong decisions and judgements, sometimes to our own detriment. There are evolutionary advantages to both instinctive and rational thinking.

Some of the questions we can consider in this seminar are: Can we improve our thinking? If so, how? Can we “teach” thinking as a skill? Can we overcome unconscious bias? What are some different kinds of thinking? Is thinking necessarily hierarchical? Is language necessary for thinking? How does age affect our thinking patterns and abilities? What can we learn about thinking from technology and the development of AI? And others of your choosing.

Your active participation is needed. Some of you may present research through lecture and question and answers. Some may choose a significant article or chapter for all to read and discuss. Others may invite our participation in Thinking Routines (see project Zero below) or exercises.

The goals are for all of us to think about thinking, celebrate learning, and have a good time doing so.

Some books and on line sources. There are many more out there.

Ariely, Dan; [Predictably Irrational](#)

Brafman, Ori and Rom; [Sway, The irresistible Pull of Irrational Behavior](#)

Eberhardt, Jennifer, [Biased, Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, And Do](#)

Gelb, Michael; [How to think Like Leonardo da Vinci](#)

Kahneman, Daniel; [Thinking Fast and Slow](#)

Ritchhart, Ron; [Creating Cultures of Thinking](#)

Ritchhart, Ron; [Making Thinking Visible](#)

Thorpe, Scott, et al; [How to Think Like Einstein](#)

Vedantam, Shankar; [The Hidden Brain](#)

The Harvard Implicit Bias project; <https://implicit.harvard.edu>

Lopez, German at vox.com; <https://www.vox.com/identities/2017/3/7/14637626/implicit-association>. (critique of the Implicit Bias Tests)

Project Zero, Harvard Graduate School of Education; <https://pz.harvard.edu>