Understanding Implicit Bias: What It Is, What It Isn’t, and How to Move Forward

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Research on implicit bias suggests that people can act in discriminatory ways without intending to do so. But criticism of research on implicit bias has grown in recent years. Psychologists, philosophers, and journalists have raised a variety of concerns. What is the status of research on implicit bias? While there are significant challenges and ample room for improvement, I argue that research on the causes, psychological properties, and behavioral effects of implicit bias continues to deserve a role in the sciences of the mind as well as in efforts to understand, and ultimately combat, discrimination and inequality.