

Better judgement: improving assessors' management of factors affecting their judgement

Intended audience

Assessors of students in oral or practice-based situations and academic developers who support assessors.

Learning outcomes

To further develop the quality of your judgements about students' performance through awareness of biases.

Workshop description

Competency-based education is becoming ever more popular, but its assessment is not easy and it is clear that human judgement will have to play a central part in all assessment programmes. Human judgement, however, can be influenced by biases (Plous, 1993). This workshop tries to address these biases in a somewhat counter-intuitive way because instead of trying to train them away we aim at improving these biases into so-called scripts; strategies to effectively and efficiently 'diagnose' the candidate's competence. The workshop supports professional learning for academic practice and aims to improve the quality of assessment through enhancing the skills of assessors. It will use the training package called 'Better Judgement' and has been funded by the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching. It includes video presentations to explain judgement biases and how they might influence assessors; vignettes of obvious and subtle cases in which a certain bias occurs; and practice, discussion and reflection exercises. The training package is available at www.flinders.edu.au/better-judgement.

References

Plous, S. (1993). *The psychology of judgment and decision making* / Scott Plous. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Facilitator biography

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Dr Schmidt has degrees in physics, mathematics, biological sciences and education. Her PhD was in cancer research and while in Medical Biotechnology she worked on a number of industry-linked research projects and coordinated the degree program. Her current role sees her providing Faculty Development for the Medical degree as it introduces programmatic assessment for learning; as well as maintaining her education, science and maths research activities.