

Glossary of psychology terms used in *Whistling Vivaldi*
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Source: VandenBox, G., ed. (c2007). *APA dictionary of psychology*. Washington, DC : American Psychological Association, c2007. Prepared by Deb Hoskins, Ph.D, University of Wisconsin at La Crosse.

Note: ALL CAPS indicates a separate entry in the *APA dictionary*.

Bias: 1. an inclination, tendency, or preference. See also PREJUDICE.

Contingency: a conditional, probabilistic relation between two events.

Discrimination: . . . 3. differential treatment of the members of different ethnic, religious, national, or other groups. Discrimination is usually the behavioral manifestation of prejudice and therefore involves negative, hostile, and injurious treatment of the members of rejected groups. By contrast, POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION is the favorable treatment of the oppressed group rather than the typically favored group.

Identity: an individual's sense of self defined by (a) a set of physical and psychological characteristics that is not wholly shared with any other person and (b) a range of social and interpersonal affiliations (e.g., ethnicity) and social roles. Identity involves a sense of continuity; the feeling that one is the same person today that one was yesterday or last year (despite physical or other changes). Such a sense is derived from one's body sensations, one's body image, and the feeling that one's memories, purposes, values, and experiences belong to the self. Also called personal identity.

Prejudice: 1. a negative attitude toward another person or group formed in advance of any experience with that person or group. Prejudices include an affective component (emotions that range from mild nervousness to hatred), a cognitive component (assumptions and beliefs about groups, including stereotypes), and a behavioral component (negative behaviors, including discrimination and violence). They tend to be resistant to change because they distort the prejudiced individual's perception of information pertaining to the group. Prejudice based on racial grouping is RACISM; prejudice based on sex is SEXISM. 2. any preconceived attitude or view, whether favorable or unfavorable.

Stereotype: a set of cognitive generalizations (e.g., beliefs, expectations) about the qualities and characteristics of the members of a particular group or social category. Stereotypes, like SCHEMAS, simplify and expedite perceptions and judgments, but they are often exaggerated, negative rather than positive, and resistant to revision even when perceivers encounter individuals with qualities that are not congruent with the stereotype . . . Unlike individually held expectations about others based on their category memberships, stereotypes are widely shared by group members.

Stereotype threat: an individual's expectation that NEGATIVE STEREOTYPES about his or her member group will adversely influence others' judgments of his or her performance. This expectation may in turn undermine the individual's actual ability to perform well. In an academic setting, for example, it has been shown that African American students' performance in tests of intellectual ability can suffer because of anxiety induced by thinking that they are expected to perform poorly and will be judged according to negative stereotypes about Black intelligence.

Stigma: the negative social attitude attached to a characteristic of an individual that may be regarded as a mental, physical, or social deficiency. A stigma implies social disapproval and can lead unfairly to discrimination against and exclusion of the individual.