



# EXPLORING STRATEGIES FOR CHANGING IMPLICIT AND EXPLICIT RACISM IN AUSTRALIA

Dr Leah Kaufmann  
School of Psychology  
Australian Catholic University

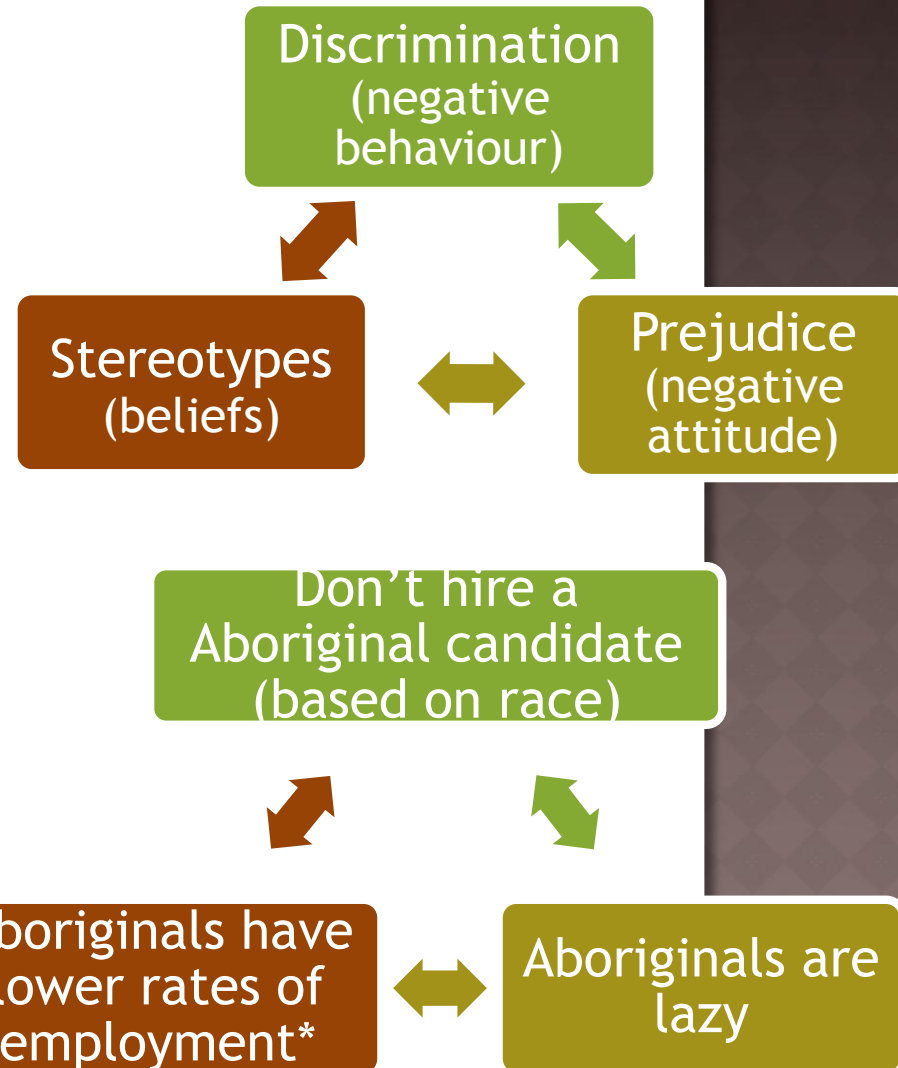
# EVIDENCE FOR RACIAL DISADVANTAGE IN AUSTRALIA

- ⊙ Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC, 1997) documented that between 1910-1970 government policies resulted in the removal of thousands of indigenous children from their families.
- ⊙ The Australian Bureau of Statistics (e.g., ABS, 2010) document contemporary disadvantage faced by indigenous Australians
  - Lower (~11 years) life expectancy, employment and opportunities, SES
  - Higher levels of infant mortality, chronic and communicable disease, mental illness, incarceration

# WHAT PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH ADDS TO UNDERSTANDING RACISM (I)

## ○ Definitions -

- **Prejudice** is “an unfair negative attitude toward a social group or a person perceived to be a member of that group” (Dovidio, 2001, p.829)
- **Racism** is prejudice toward individuals based on their “racial” group membership.



\*Many beliefs are based in fact

# WHAT (EMPIRICAL) PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH ADDS TO UNDERSTANDING RACISM (II)

- Some key empirical findings:
  - Fewer than 1/3 of Australian participants surveyed report explicitly blatant racism (e.g., Walker & Pederson, 1997)
  - More than 50% of Australian participants are willing to endorse or report modern racism including denial of experiences of racism among Aboriginals (e.g., Augoustinos et al., 1999)
  - The treatment of Aboriginals by European settlers and the Australian government is associated with guilt, which has been inconsistently linked to support for the 2008 apology (e.g., Allpress, 2010).
- *Knowledge is not enough to produce social change*

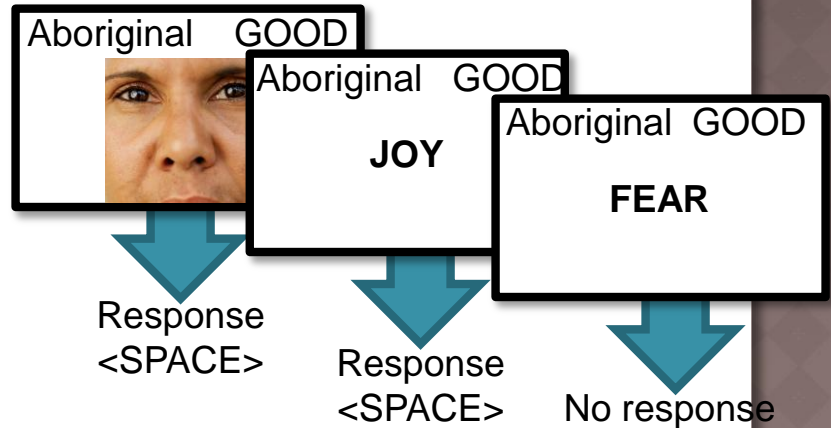
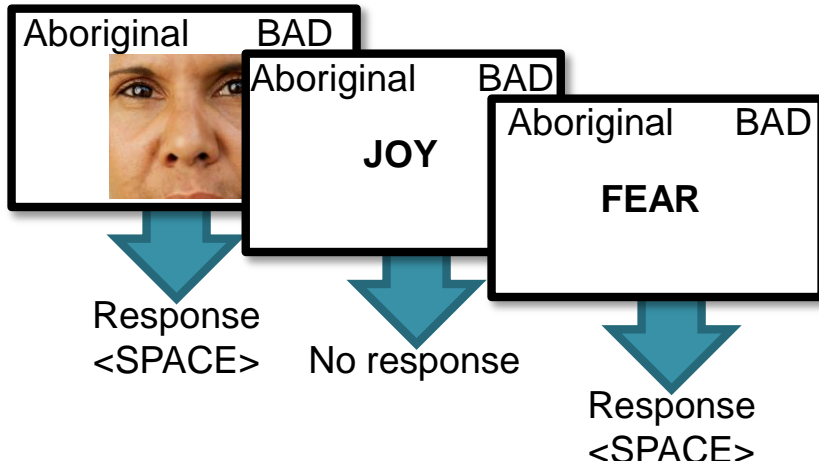
# MEASURES OF EXPLICIT AND IMPLICIT RACISM

***Australian adaptation of the Modern Racism Scale.***  
 (Augoustinos, Innes, & Ahrens, 1994).

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither disagree nor agree	Agree	Strongly agree
Aboriginals should not push themselves in where they're not wanted.					
It is easy to understand the anger of Aboriginals in Australia. (R)					
Aboriginals are getting too demanding in their push for rights.					

◉ (7 items in total).

***Go/No Go Association Task*** (Nosek & Banaji, 2001).



# IMPLICIT RACISM

*If you are interested in experiencing an implicit racism measure, participate in my research!*

<http://blogs.acu.edu.au/leahkaufmann/research-experiments/>

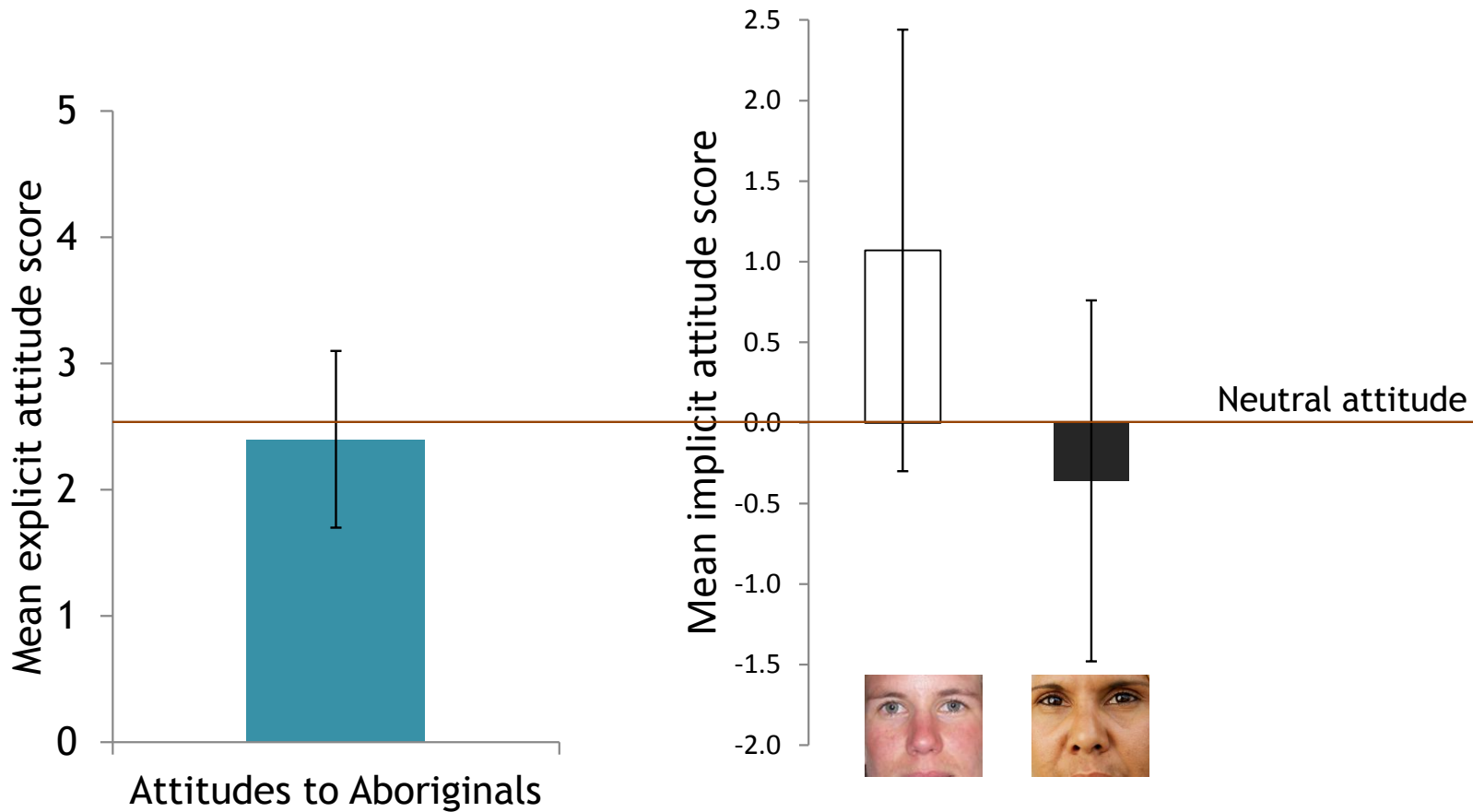
***Go/No Go Association Task*** (Nosek & Banaji, 2001).

INSTRUCTIONS:

If you see a picture of an **Aboriginal face** or a **negative word** (e.g., SICK), respond.

If you see a Caucasian face or a positive word, make no response and the next picture or word will appear.

# EXPLICIT AND IMPLICIT RACISM (AS NEGATIVE ATTITUDES)



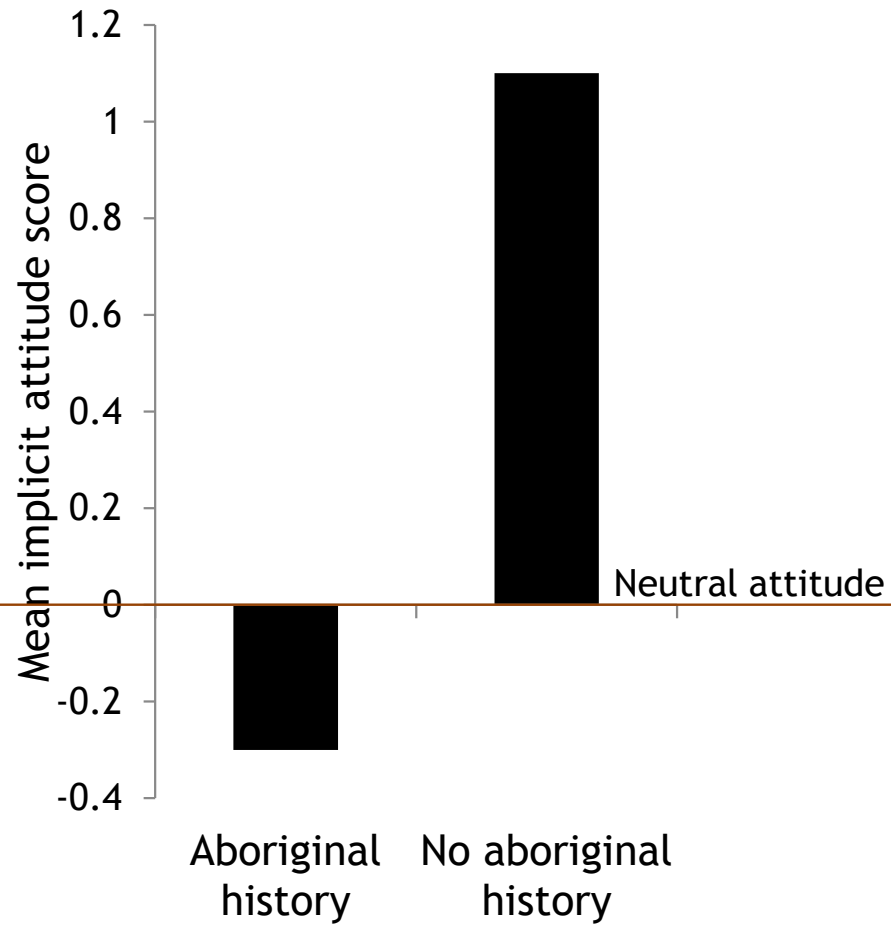
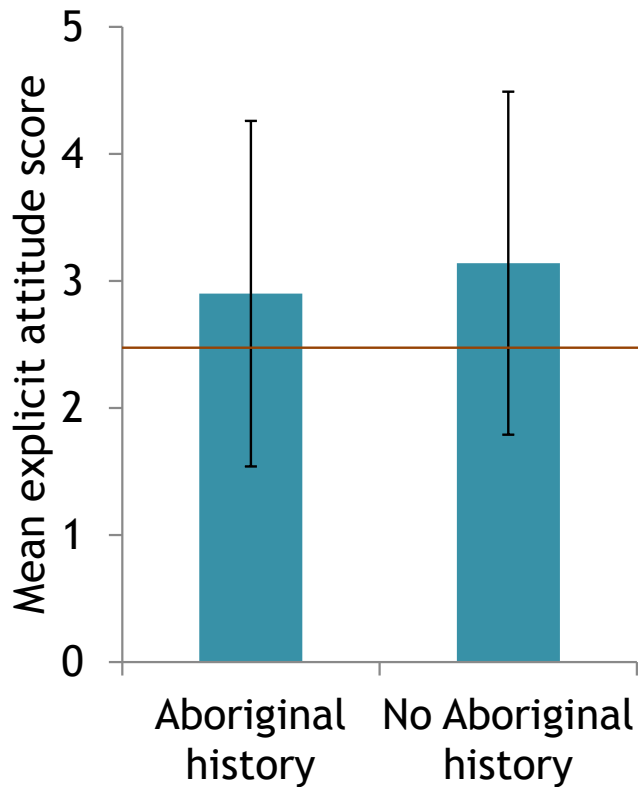
# EXPLORING STRATEGIES FOR PRODUCING SOCIAL CHANGE

- Based on two disparate lines of research, strategies for implicit, explicit racism change and prosocial behaviour were explored:
  1. a psychoeducational intervention presenting information about:
    - EITHER the treatment of Aboriginals since European settlement
    - OR a brief history of events in Australia without reference to Aboriginals



# RESULTS

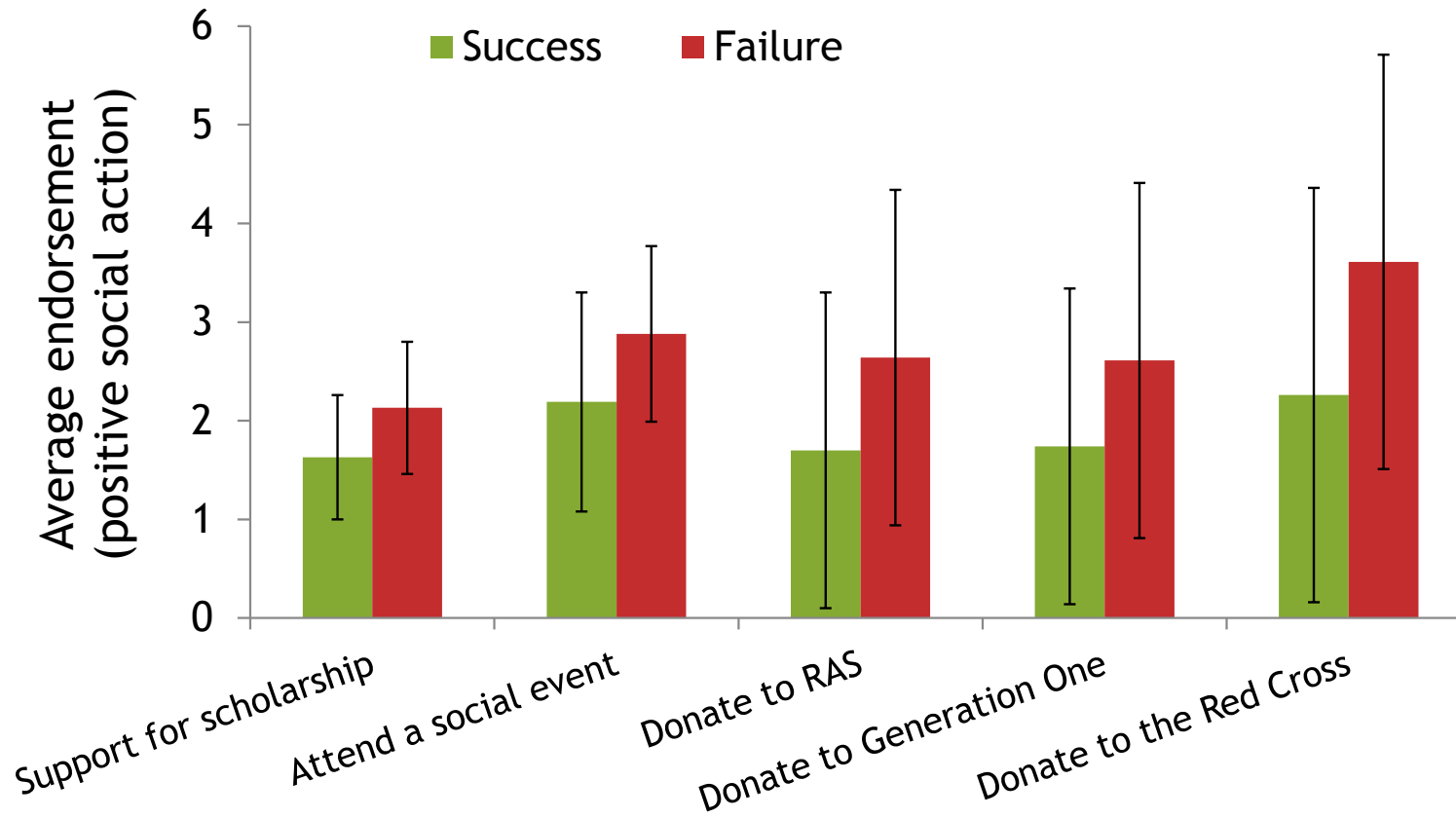
⦿ No difference



⦿ Significant difference

## 2. The effect of a personal achievement or failure.

- Anagram task performance  $\geq 80\%$
- Anagram task performance  $< 79\%$



- Failure produced a significant prosocial intention on every item

# CONCLUSIONS

- ⦿ Racism that is clear defined can be most easily and accurately measured
- ⦿ Subtle changes in racism rely on accurate measurement
- ⦿ Change is not always for the better
  - Assessment of change will allow us to ensure strategies produce the desired (and not undesirable) change.

# DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF AN AUSTRALIAN WITH SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO SAY?

- ◉ Please get involve with (my) research.
- ◉ I would love to hear from you on issues related to racism towards many groups (incl. **Aboriginals, Asians in Australia, Muslims, and Asylum Seekers**).
- ◉ <http://blogs.acu.edu.au/leahkaufmann/research-experiments/>

# THANK YOU

## Acknowledgments:

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## Stimuli:

Gary Radler <http://www.garyradler.com>

Minear, M. & Park, D.C. (2004). A lifespan database of adult facial stimuli. *Behavior Research Methods, Instruments, & Computers*. 36, 630-633.

Any questions, comments or feedback  
welcomed.

[Leah.Kaufmann@acu.edu.au](mailto:Leah.Kaufmann@acu.edu.au)