

DR. ITIEL DROR



Biography

Itiel Dror (Ph.D. Harvard) is a cognitive neuroscientist who is interested in the cognitive architecture that underpins expert decision making. Dror's research, published in over 150 research articles, cited over 10,000 times (source: Google Scholar), demonstrates human vulnerabilities in expert reasoning and decision making. He has worked in a variety of domains, from policing and aviation, to medical experts and bankers, showing that cognitive and human factors impact even hard working, dedicated and competent experts. Specifically, in expert evidence he has focused attention and highlighted the issues of bias and noise, and how to overcome these weaknesses (the topics of this Keynote). Dr. Dror has worked with and trained many agencies in various countries on how to minimize errors and enhance expert decision making. More information is at: <http://www.cci-hq.com/dr.-itiel-dror.html>

Title

Overcoming Human Weaknesses in Expert Decision Making

Abstract

Experts are heavily relied upon as their judgment and decision making is regarded as objective and impartial. In this talk I will present research and evidence from real casework that many different types of biases affect experts, even in 'scientifically objective' domains. For example, forensic conclusions can be highly impacted and distorted by irrelevant contextual information, by reference materials, or even by the context in which information is presented or obtained. Confirmation bias and other cognitive biases that I will discuss are implicit and impact hard working, dedicated and competent experts, and thus are widespread but hard to detect. I will articulate the psychological mechanisms by which experts can make biased and erroneous decisions. Then I will show how this research can assist in identifying such weaknesses and in providing practical ways to mitigate them, see, e.g.: <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.analchem.0c00704>