

***STORIES  
PRE-COGNITIVE FILTERS  
AND BIAS***

***BY JESSICA MM***

“The universe is  
made of stories, not of atoms.”  
— Muriel Rukeyser

“It is the spirit of story  
that moves through  
the world of being ...”  
– Wilson, Breen, & DuPré

***HUMAN PERCEPTION  
HAS LIMITS***

***REALITY IS FAR TOO COMPLEX  
FOR US TO TAKE IT ALL IN***

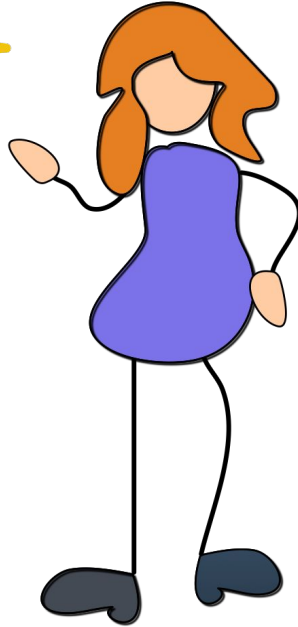


Everything-all-at-once. We are exposed to approximately eleven million pieces of information per second (Wilson, 2004)

The genius –and curse– of human cognition is that we have pre-cognitive filters and biases that help us only attend to the stimuli that are relevant to our physical, psychological and social lives.



Hey wait!  
Aren't biases  
bad?



To avoid being overwhelmed by everything-all-at-once, we **MUST** rely on cognitive pre-filters, biases, and shortcuts to navigate in our physical and social worlds.

But how do we know what is “relevant”? We need trusted elders, teachers, peers and lived experiences to determine relevance.

What cultural and social sources – and forces – guide our senses to know WHO matters and WHO does not and WHAT is dangerous and WHAT is not?



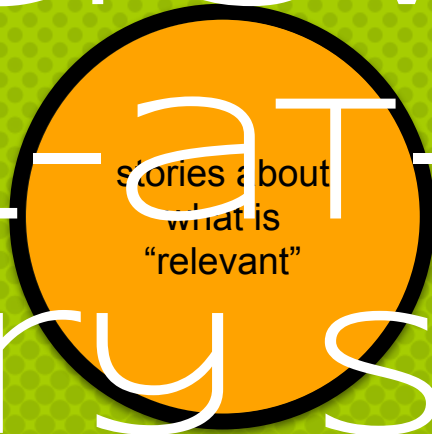


Here's the sitch ...



EVERYTHING

everywhere



ALL-AT-ONCE  
every second



**HUMAN**

“The  universe is made of stories

We need to:

- raise into our awareness the stories we are using to pre-filter our perceptions
- RE-story colonial, racist, sexist, homophobic, ableist and other oppressive beliefs, structures and systems.

**THE**  
~~**END**~~



∞ **BEGINNING**

# REFERENCES

Wilson, S., Breen, A. V., & DuPré, L. (2019). *Research and reconciliation : unsettling ways of knowing through Indigenous relationships.* Canadian Scholars. p. 117.



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