TITLE ROLES:
EXPLORING JOB STEREOTYPES

Leading Question

Why do job stereotypes matter?

Watch the video

https://youtu.be/aWkg1WbYhjY

People can't help stereotyping others. It's wired into our brains and probably evolved out of a need to quickly determine whether a stranger was a friend or foe. But job stereotypes can hurt.

1. Why was Daphne Koller assumed to be her male assistant and vice versa? What specific job stereotypes came into play?

2. How do you think Daphne felt about being mistaken for her assistant? How do you think her assistant felt about being mistaken for her?

3. What are the stereotypical characteristics of jobs that are traditionally considered "women's work"? What kind of job titles are included? What's the work environment like? The working conditions, such as hours and pay? The people in the profession?

4. How does stereotyping a job as "women's work" affect the people in that profession?

5. Are there benefits to stereotyping jobs? For whom?

6. What effects do stereotyping jobs by gender have on a community, country, or culture? What about stereotyping of jobs by age, race, religion, political persuasion, or socio-economic group?

START SOMETHING

How can you combat your unconscious tendency to stereotype jobs? What specific actions can you take?

BIOGRAPHY

Daphne Koller

As chief computing officer at Calico, Daphne Koller explores human aging and diseases associated with age. Prior to that, Koller was a computer science research professor at Stanford University for 18 years, specializing in machine learning and probabilistic modeling. While on a leave of absence from Stanford, she co-founded Coursera, a company revolutionizing global education through universal online access with 29 million users. Koller has received a number of prestigious awards, including the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers and a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. Koller earned her BS in math and computer science and an MS in computer science from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a PhD in computer science from Stanford University.

RESOURCES

Watch all nine videos of Women's Work: Perspectives on Gender in Tech
http://www.computerhistory.org/exponential/women-swork/

Wonder Women:
Entrepreneurship, Education, and New Frontiers
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UC99u7NJh14&index=3&list=PLQsxaNhYv8dZMhpT8-934UPMdtho7G2_W

About

This discussion guide is part of the series Women's Work: Perspectives on Gender in Tech, nine videos produced by the Exponential Center at the Computer History Museum. The center is dedicated to capturing the legacy and advancing the future of entrepreneurship and innovation in Silicon Valley and around the world.

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