



Dr. Itiel Dror  
**Cognitive and Human Factors in Forensic Decision Making**  
Canberra, 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Application to enrol in Training Workshop

The Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ACT Branch) wish to support the continual advancement of forensic work by providing further training from highly regarded experts. Expressions of Interest are currently being sought from persons currently employed or studying in the forensic disciplines wishing to register to attend a training workshop on **Cognitive and Human Factors in Forensic Decision Making presented by Dr. Itiel Dror.**

This training focuses on improving Forensic Decision Making, and is tailored to the specific participants. No prior knowledge in cognition is required, and the training is appropriate for beginner, intermediate, and advanced level staff across the forensic domains.

It covers brain and cognitive issues relating to cognitive and human factor issues in decision making. It then connects the cognitive science issues to practical and specific issues in forensic work. In addition to knowledge about the cognitive and human factors in forensic decision making, the program also provides practical solutions to address weaknesses, as well as best practices, to enhance forensic practices.

**Intended Learning Objectives**

- Describe background information regarding the human mind and cognitive system
- Describe how information and knowledge are acquired, processed, represented, encoded, stored, utilised, retrieved, compared, and evaluated.
- Describe how decisions are made.
- Demonstrate the connection between contextual information and a variety of forensic decision making processes that forensic examiners typically use.
- Describe how cognitive factors can be utilised to make forensic experts' work more efficient.
- Describe the pitfalls and errors that can occur in forensic decision making.

**Course Outline**

1. **Background Knowledge:** will cover general principles and mechanisms of the human mind and cognition as they relate to decision making, such as:
  - a. The human brain and how that translates to human performance and how we process information.
  - b. How information processing underlies all aspects of perception and cognition in general and in expertise.
  - c. The Hierarchy of Expert Performance (HEP).
  - d. Specific issues in information processing, such as: knowledge representation, allocation of resources, perception, judgment and decision making.



- e. Architectural constraints in cognition, including: limits in information processing load, malfunctions, and lack of control.
2. **Domain Applications:** will connect the Background Knowledge to a variety of forensic decision making issues, such as:
  - a. Cognitive perseverance
  - b. Confirmation bias, snowball bias, and cascade bias
  - c. Self-fulfilling prophecies
  - d. Contextual influences
  - e. Cognitive closure and dissonance
  - f. Expertise
  - g. Escalation of commitment and decision momentum.
3. **Domain Implications:** will tie both Background Knowledge and Domain Applications to specific issues regarding how forensic decision making is conducted.

In addition to specific ways to enhance forensic decision making, this course will try to provide more in-depth tools to the participants. Such tools will accompany the participants in the future and will enable them to enhance and enrich their professional abilities. This part will also include discussion of court cases that were challenging and highlighted cognitive factors in forensic decision making.

#### Key Information

**Date:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (two day workshop)

**Time:** 0900 – 1600 (tentative time, subject to change)

**Location:** Canberra Institute of Technology Bruce Campus, Canberra  
Haydon Drive, Bruce ACT 2617

**RSVP:** Positions on this course are **limited** and are on a first come best placed basis.  
**Payment is required to secure a position. Registration closes Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 18.**

COURSE FEES	Price
ANZFSS Member*	\$ 800.00
ANZFSS Student Member**	\$ 400.00
Non-Member Standard Rate	\$ 1,000.00
Non-Member Student Rate**	\$ 500.00

\*To qualify for any category of member pricing you must be a current financial member of any ANZFSS Branch at the time of registration.

\*\*Student means a full-time student with a recognised tertiary institution currently enrolled in a forensic science program who are self-funding their attendance. Proof of student status is required.

Only a limited number of places are available at this workshop. To secure your place, a deposit in full must be paid at the time of registration. Places will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis and a waitlist will be established.

**If you require a tax invoice for your employer prior to payment of registration, please contact the ACT Branch Secretary at [actbranch@anzfss.org](mailto:actbranch@anzfss.org) as soon as possible**

Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (A.C.T. Branch) Inc.

ABN: 12 701 897 301 | Association No: A02608

PO Box 3601 WESTON ACT 2611

[actbranch@anzfss.org](mailto:actbranch@anzfss.org) | [www.anzfss.org](http://www.anzfss.org)



Dr. Itiel Dror, who will be providing this workshop, is a cognitive neuroscientist who received his Ph.D. in Harvard (1994) in the area of cognitive factors in human expert performance. Since his Ph.D. over twenty years ago, Dr. Dror has been researching this area, and has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles specifically looking at cognitive factors that mediate human expert performance. His insights and understanding of the human brain and cognitive system underpin the workshop. Without such deep knowledge, it is not possible to properly deliver a workshop on the 'cognitive factors' and 'decision making'.

Dr. Dror has been working in the forensic domain for over a decade. During this time Dr. Dror has worked with a variety of forensic laboratories in which he has visited and shadowed examiners doing casework, reviewed SOPs and practices. Dr. Dror was the Chair of the OSAC Human Factor group, which is responsible for the cognitive factor issues across all the OSAC forensic domains. The National Commission on Forensic Science has recognized Dr. Dror as a leader in this area and has asked him to present to the commission and appointed him to their Human Factors subcommittee. He was invited to present (as well as cited by) the National Academy of Science report on forensic science (NAS, 2009), and the President's Council of Advisors on Science & Technology report on forensic science (PCAST, 2016). Dr. Dror has also been working with many other forensic bodies and has many more credentials in this area.

The success of his workshops and his training in this area has been recognized by the professional bodies: Dr. Dror has received the ABP Annual Award for 'Excellence in Training' for his workshops on cognitive and human factors in forensic decision making. The purpose of the award is to recognize excellence in demonstrating how applying an understanding of the science of human behavior can impact and deliver practical value to organizations. The judges commented that Dr. Dror's workshops are: "Truly outstanding and inspiring", "A highly rigorous application of relevant theoretical frameworks", "Truly innovative, breaking entirely new ground in a most challenging context", "Internationally ground-breaking impact -already being used around the world", "Entirely focused on application of conceptual models – underpinned by deep research", and "Impact is highly impressive".

More information is available at:

<http://www.cci-hq.com/forensic-identification.html>



**Cognitive and Human Factors in Forensic Decision Making**  
Canberra, 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018  
**Workshop Registration Form**

Participant Surname:			
Participant Given Names:			
Registration Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> ANZFSS Member*	<input type="checkbox"/> ANZFSS Student Member**	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member Standard <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member Student**
Fees Payable: (refer to below table)	\$	<b>Payable by Direct Deposit to:</b> <b>A/C Name: ANZFSS Incorporated ACT</b> <b>Branch BSB: 325 185</b> <b>A/C Number: 0333 6755</b>	
<i>Online payment via. Credit Card is accepted, 10% GST is applied. Please contact the ACT Branch Secretary at <a href="mailto:actbranch@anzfss.org">actbranch@anzfss.org</a> for further details.</i>			
Employer:			
Student Number & Institution: (Proof of student status required)			
Billing Address:			
Email Address:			
Telephone Number:			

If you require a tax invoice for your employer prior to payment of registration please contact the ACT Branch Secretary at [actbranch@anzfss.org](mailto:actbranch@anzfss.org) as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

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**Application for ACT Branch Scholarship**

The Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ACT Branch) wish to support the continual advancement of forensic work by providing further training from highly regarded experts. Expressions of Interest are currently being sought from persons currently employed or studying in the forensic disciplines wishing to register to attend a training workshop on **Cognitive and Human Factors in Forensic Decision Making presented by Dr. Itiel Dror.**

To further support the attendance of ACT members at this workshop, the ACT Branch will be awarding partial scholarships to ACT Branch members who have been a member of the Branch for two or more consecutive years (including the current year) for general members.

For student member scholarships, ACT Branch members must have been a member for consecutive 12 months (including this year). Scholarships awarded will be of the value indicated below:

Membership Type	Scholarship amount
ANZFSS Member*	\$ 150.00
ANZFSS Student Member**	\$ 50.00

\*To qualify for ACT Branch Member Scholarship you must have been a financial member of the ACT Branch of ANZFSS for two consecutive membership years (inclusive of the current membership year), and not be a recipient of a similar scholarship or price subsidy package.

\*\*Student means a full-time student with a recognised tertiary institution currently enrolled in a forensic science program who are self-funding their attendance. Proof of student status is required.

Please ensure that you apply for this scholarship **BEFORE** paying your registration fees.

Please **DO NOT** pay your registration fees until your Scholarship application has been assessed.

**If you require a tax invoice for your employer prior to payment of registration, please contact the ACT Branch Secretary at [actbranch@anzfss.org](mailto:actbranch@anzfss.org) as soon as possible**



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Participant Surname:		
Participant Given Names:		
Branch Scholarship:	<input type="checkbox"/> General, associate or life member* (\$150)	<input type="checkbox"/> Student member** (\$50)
Reason for Branch Scholarship: (3-4 sentences)		
Registration Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> General, associate or life member*	<input type="checkbox"/> Student member**
Employer:		
Student Number & Institution:		
Billing Address:		
Email Address: (PRINT CLEARLY)		
Telephone Number:		

Please forward completed form to the ACT Branch Secretary at [actbranch@anzfss.org](mailto:actbranch@anzfss.org) for consideration.

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