

Ty Pi Ng is a Vietnamese journalist who writes about stereotyping.

Did you read the last statement and believe it? Of course, I don't know if there is a journalist named Ty Pi Ng and neither do you but did you believe he was Vietnamese? If you did, you could be guilty of stereotyping.

All mathematicians have bad social skills. Polish people are lousy writers. I am Polish and a mathematician. The first two statements of this paragraph should be considered stereotypes. It is not true for every mathematician or every Polish person. You can form an opinion regarding the third sentence of this paragraph after reading this essay.

If you can look in a mirror, it is almost certain that you are helping make the earth more polluted, the world more chaotic, the education system less wise, the political system more corrupt, the monetary system more immoral, the health care system more unethical and the universal state of things worse. This is not a stereotype but rather the state of the world we live in. Now, it is certainly true that many of us are not happy with this and that we are caught in a trap that has been created by a relatively few and then many have jumped on the bandwagon to follow them and/or assist them.

Stereotyping is often used as a means to cause conflict or to put people in a group together. Many times it is used by all groups involved in an important or controversial issue. We all have learning disabilities, mental disorders and emotional instabilities. We need to recognize this and make it part of all our discussions. We are also individuals with different makeups, different likes, different feelings, different talents, different bodies and (maybe) most important of all, different experiences and different reactions to similar experiences.

However, it is also true, that there are groups of people who get together and agree on many things. These groups can name streets or form laws or make policies among a myriad of possibilities as we observe in the world around us. However, other groups strongly disagree with the results of these groups, some groups could care less and other groups believe that we need another system for doing these activities.

As an example, consider the USA. There are two main political parties - Democrats and Republicans. Many people put everyone in one of these two groups. However, neither one of these groups may be as large as the group who considers themselves a member of neither party. Many times the media will characterize all Democrats or all Republicans. However, each of these groups are again made up of individuals and hardly any individual agrees on all things with another individual. Why does the media do this?

Throughout history, people have come from all over the earth among many races, beliefs, political views to Israel and Jerusalem. They have fought wars with each other, they have had sex with each other and they have intermingled in many ways with each other. Many males impregnated large number of females from all these races, beliefs and political views. The children born from all of this bio- and cultural-diversity then travelled all over the earth doing the same. During World War I and World War II this happened on an even larger scale. Therefore, there are people with incredibly complicated histories and ancestries living in almost every place on this earth. Travel in the last 100 years has also increased this phenomenon all over the earth. Despite this, there are still countries that are mostly one race. However, many countries that are stereotyped as being one race are not.

People try not only to stereotype the countries that have mostly one race but all countries. This causes as much conflict in the world as any other activity that humans participate in. Another activity is only looking at small parts of history and not the entire large picture of history. People of all colors and all sexual orientations have inflicted horrors on other people because of greed, religion, morality, etc. Sometimes large groups of people have done this, other times very small groups of people have done this and many times only one individual has done it. In all cases, many people have suffered.

Unfortunately, this inflicting pain on others still exists and is done in many ways. Countries and corporations cause conflict in other countries so that they can rape those countries of their resources in order for their citizens and their customers to have a 'better' life. They show little regard for the countries they devastate. Living a 'sustainable life' often results in this. There are many environmentalists who live a life that requires much destruction and suffering for others. Is this stereotyping or a fact?

Many people came to live in JerUSAlem from all over after King David conquered it and this has continued throughout history. This process has brought much stereotyping on not only JerUSAlem but Israel and the Middle East. William Penn Jr. wrote the first constitution that gave freedom of thought, speech and worship. People came from all over the earth to live in Philadelphia under this constitution. Eventually, this led to much stereotyping. Isaac Newton, John Locke, Christopher Wren helped break the control of the Church of England and brought what many called the enlightenment. This also led to much stereotyping.

One can have faith in a supreme being or beings, science, education, the government, etc. Faith [in a supreme being or beings] and religion are often treated as synonyms and more often used and/or interpreted incorrectly. That is

people often use the word religion when they mean faith and vice versa and people often think faith when they read religion and vice versa. Which it is that is being intended by the writer or speaker is often hard to tell. For example, if one has faith in Catholicism do they mean a supreme being, the denomination, the institution or the religion? Often people will put all those of faith in a supreme being into a single category or will stereotype a person's comments on a religion derogatorily.

This can also happen in race. If one reads the account of France, Poland and the Haitians circa 1802, one will see that the race issue has, is and will continue to be an extremely complex issue that is not easily categorized. However, stereotyping across races and ethnicities is a common event that occurs regularly in the media and universities across the world.

In many isolated societies where very little technologies exist and especially in the far past when technology did not exist even in the non-isolated societies, there is virtually no stereotyping. People tend to be happier (and tended to be happier) with who they are (were) and accept (accepted) those who are (were) different from them and show (showed) all respect.

Most non-isolated societies with technologies have a plethora of institutions of 'higher education'. These institutions have professors who espouse stereotypical ideas and point out classes of people rather than individuals. Too many of these institutions have put out, do put out and will continue to put out graduates who become well known and who inflict horrific damage on the earth and world and who also practice stereotyping.

Entities that call themselves institutes of higher education should recognize that we are all individuals and that we should all have the same rights and opportunities and we should appreciate the individualism but that we should work together to make the earth a better place to live in all aspects. Would it not be beneficial for society if these institutions of higher education had ethical discussions on their stereotyping and tried to reduce it among themselves and among their students?

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