Beyond the Code: Ethics in The Real World

This innovative and interactive presentation taps the fields of neuroscience, psychology and even biology to understand the point where science, emotion, and critical thinking interact. Instead of critiquing how our minds are supposed to work, we will delve inside the fascinating world of how our minds actually work when we face difficult dilemmas with competing goals. The audience will experience startling, interactive experiments that reveal how we miss the obvious and how our minds conjure up false perceptions out of thin air. We will review why outdated ethical models centered around rule-based codes have failed and what research indicates does improve individual and organizational ethical reasoning.

*Optional - This session offers a powerful, live EEG demonstration (visual representation of brain activity) allowing attendees to witness the cognitive patterns associated with ethical reasoning.

Major Subjects:

- Why model codes of ethics fail
- The science behind organizations “Ethical DNA”
- Understanding the psychology behind “Tone at the Top”
- The interaction between critical thinking and ethics
- Breaking myths about motivation related to decision making
- Ethical decision-making under pressure
- Are ethics and morals “fixed” or can we learn to improve

Learning objectives: Attendees will learn effective reasoning approaches to solve difficult ethical and moral dilemmas, assess ethical culture, and understand cultural influences that impact ethical reasoning.

Level: Basic
Prerequisites: None
Advanced preparation: Not required

Hours: 1-4. Session available in 1-2 hour keynote format, a 1-2 hour presentation format or 2-4 hour workshop format.

Designed for: Analysts, auditors, governance and compliance professionals, and those working in the IT, HR, legal, and medical professions as well as executives, policymakers and other decision makers interested in having a deeper understanding of ethical reasoning.

© Toby Groves, PhD