

Forensic Realities: Understanding the Limits of Scientific Evidence

Science does not always provide the straightforward answers we expect, and if not communicated properly, can confuse those needing to draw conclusions from the data. We frequently see experts in the same field interpret the same evidence in different ways, and what people believe can turn out to have less to do with the scientific evidence and more to do with individual interpretations and motivations. This session explores the science of belief, how people interpret evidence differently, critical thinking approaches to interpret complex evidence, and the most effective approaches to communicate such data.

Major Subjects:

- Actual cases where forensic science yielded incorrect conclusions
- Implicit association and the cognitive science of belief
- The Psychology of professional skepticism
- Developing situational awareness
- Strengths and limitations of scientific data
- Developing and using non-quantitative data
- The cognitive science of emotional intelligence
- Data screening approaches and methods

Learning objectives: Attendees will learn thinking approaches that help them to detect unusual or contradictory evidence and see gaps and inconsistencies in scientific data.

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: Legal professionals, analysts, auditors, governance and compliance professionals, and those working in the IT, HR, and medical professions as well as executives, policymakers and other decision makers interested in gaining deeper insight into the limitations of scientific evidence