

## DISCUSSION PROMPTS: STIGMA, STEREOTYPES, AND MODELS OF THE BRAIN

### Task:

With your assigned group discuss the following six questions. Some questions have a *best* answer that can be supported from the readings while others are broader and you and your group may have a variety of answers, some that may seem to be in contradiction with one another. Aim to present all sides when possible and support your statements with evidence from the article and other aspects of the course.

1. How do societal stigmas impact the mental health of individuals and what are the long-term neurological effects of chronic exposure to such stigma?
2. What role does education and community support play in mitigating these neurological effects, and how might these interventions be applied in real-world scenarios?
3. Alvaro Pascual-Leone and his colleagues conducted experiments using non-invasive brain stimulation to determine which parts of the brain are linked to specific social behaviors. Discuss these results. How well does their evidence support their claims?
4. What are the implications of understanding the brain's role in stereotyping for social interactions and policies aimed at reducing discrimination? Can neuroscience-based interventions help reduce biases?
5. The article *Breaking Stereotype*: challenges the idea of uniform brain models. How does the diversity in brain structure and function across individuals complicate our understanding of neurological conditions?
6. How might personalized approaches to brain research and treatment improve outcomes for programs aimed at reducing discrimination? What challenges exist for this approach?