

# Activities for Stereotypes and Schemas

## Naming the Teddies

This activity is to show how easily stereotypes are formed. Take in two teddies (or dolls or bunnies or kitties...) One should be slightly larger than the other and should be dressed in blue dungarees or t shirt. The other should be dressed in pink dungarees or t shirt. Ask the class to name them. I have found that this works best if you don't ask for paired names, e.g. Pinky and Perky, but ask them to name each one separately. The discussion will soon get round to gender, and gender stereotypes.

## Profile the lecturer

This needs to be done early in the course and is a good way of getting to know you. Ask the class to come up with some answers to the following questions:

- 1) What did my mum do?
- 2) What did my dad do?
- 3) What instrument do I play?
- 4) Where do I like to go on holiday?
- 5) What is my favourite colour?

Ask them how they came up with the answers – there should be some interesting justifications and reasoning.

## Lying Icebreaker

Students have to come up with three things to say about themselves; two must be true and one must be a lie. They go around the class telling each other. The other person must decide which is untrue and why it was easy/ hard to tell – i.e. confirmed schema or went against schema.