



The Social Perspective and Personal Experience of Individuals in Poverty in the United States

Veronica Pletsch



Cognitive Biases

Cognitive Biases

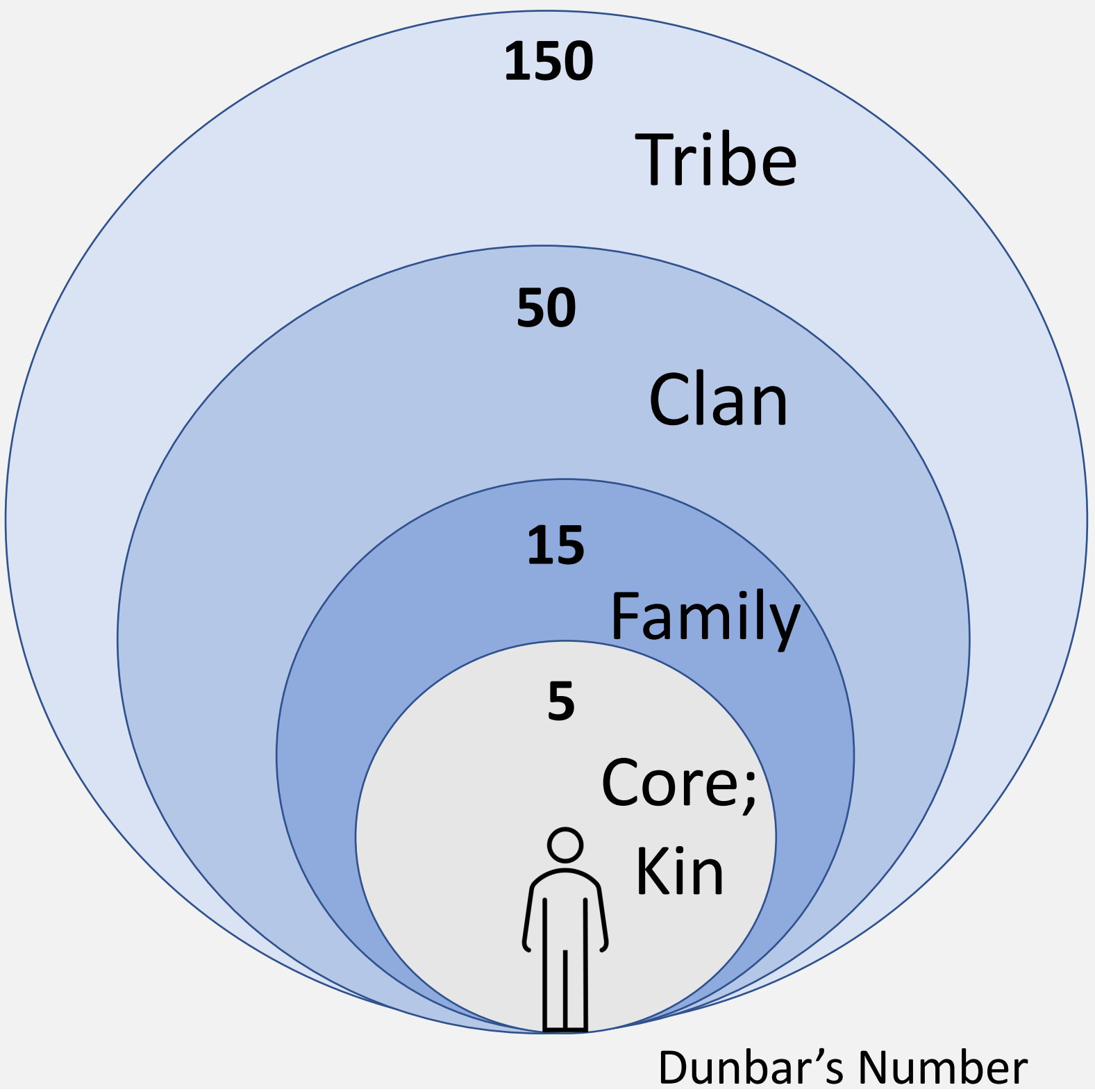
- mental shortcut
- quickly respond for survival purposes

Stereotyping

- categorical mechanism
- an oversimplified presumption
- similar assumed or ascribed characteristics
- person, community, gender, race, ect.

Dunbar's Number

- Number of relationships the brain can maintain
- Illustrates limit to human empathy

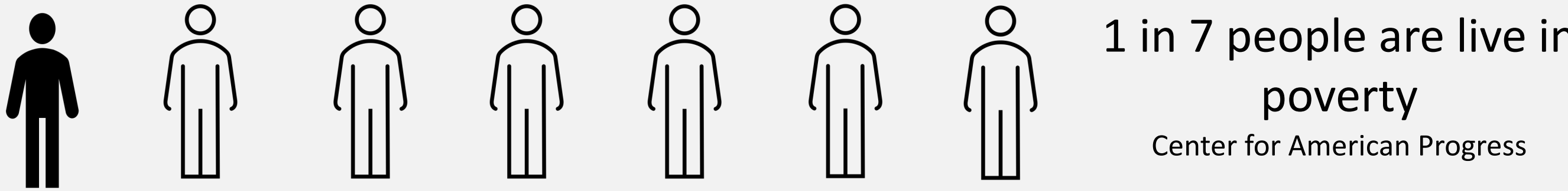


Personal Experience of Poverty

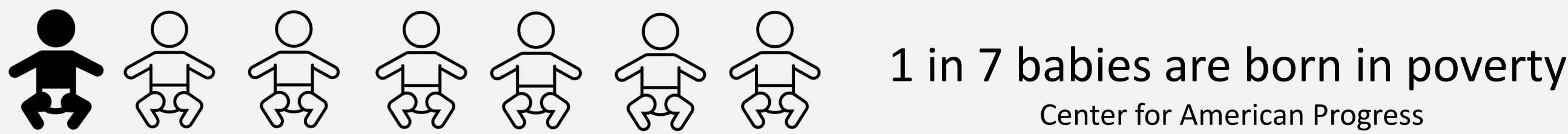
“The poor are lazy, don’t want to work, rather get everything handed to them.”



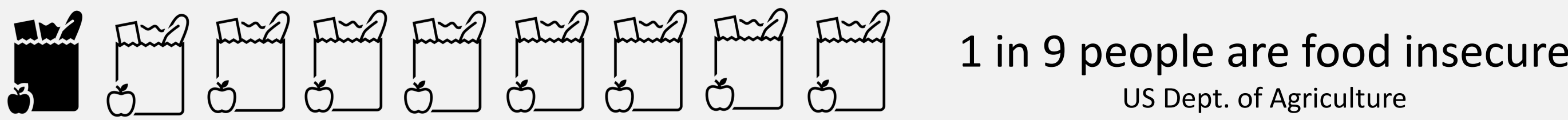
“and people making assumptions that I was **stupid because I’m poor and brown**. Or just be surprised by things that I would say. Like oh how does he have that knowledge?”



“Media how people betray people who are in poverty. In the sense of being **lazy**, of being **ungrateful**, being... Yeah like **laziness**, you’re not doing enough.”



“And I remember one of my teachers saying how those kind of jobs where they’re really labor intensive and really working with your hands, **you didn’t have to be smart enough**, you could be an **idiot** and do something like that. Going back to the **stereotype of laziness**, not **laziness**, **stupidity**. Like it didn’t require much, anything.”

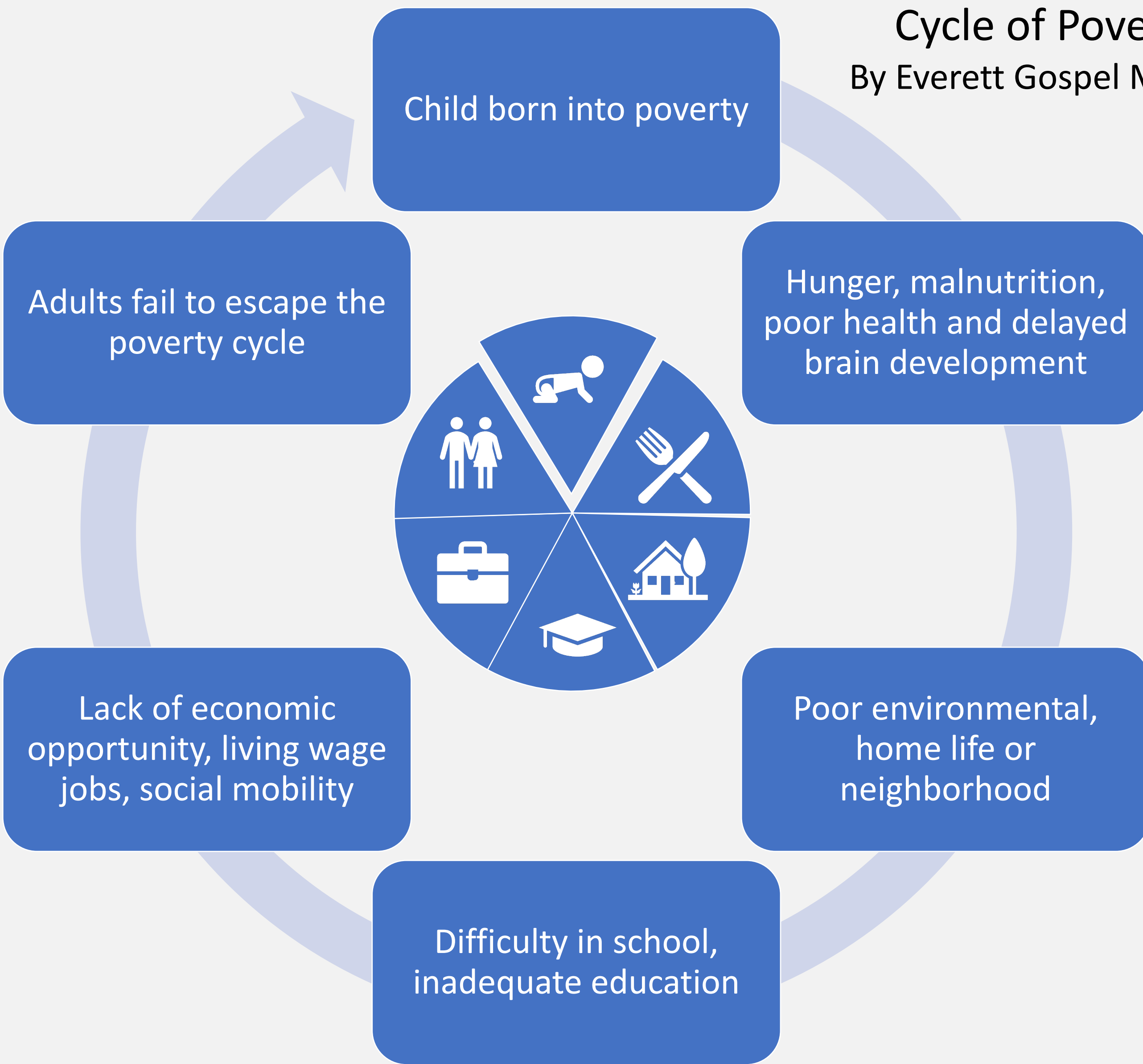


“Yeah just the notion that because there’s this cooccurrence of **because you’re poor you must not have done enough**, you must be **lazy** and yeah. That’s kind of what I faced and kind of **weird stereotypes** that kind of **gravitated towards people who are poor**.”

Affect of Social Perception on Poverty

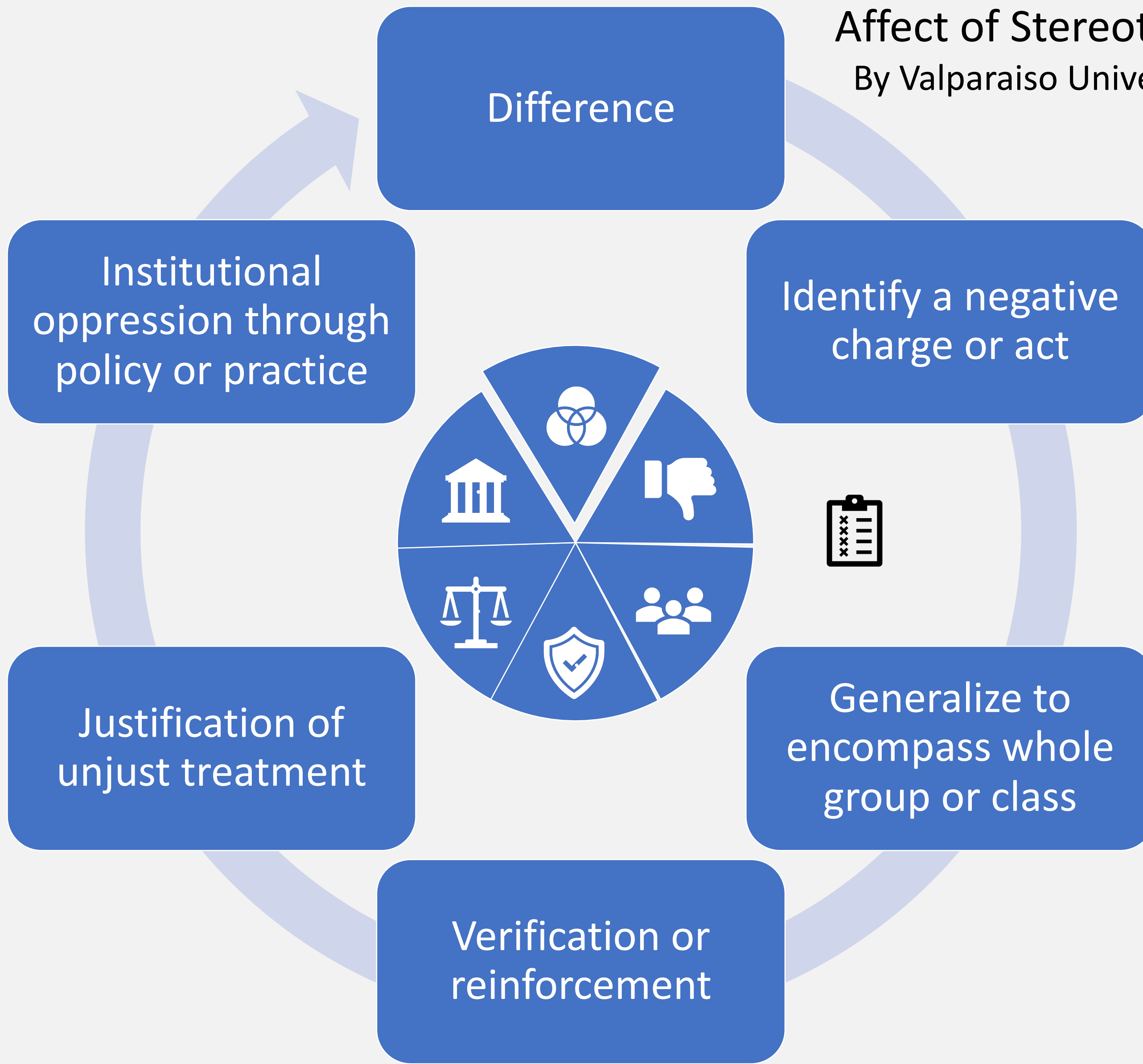
Cycle of Poverty

By Everett Gospel Mission

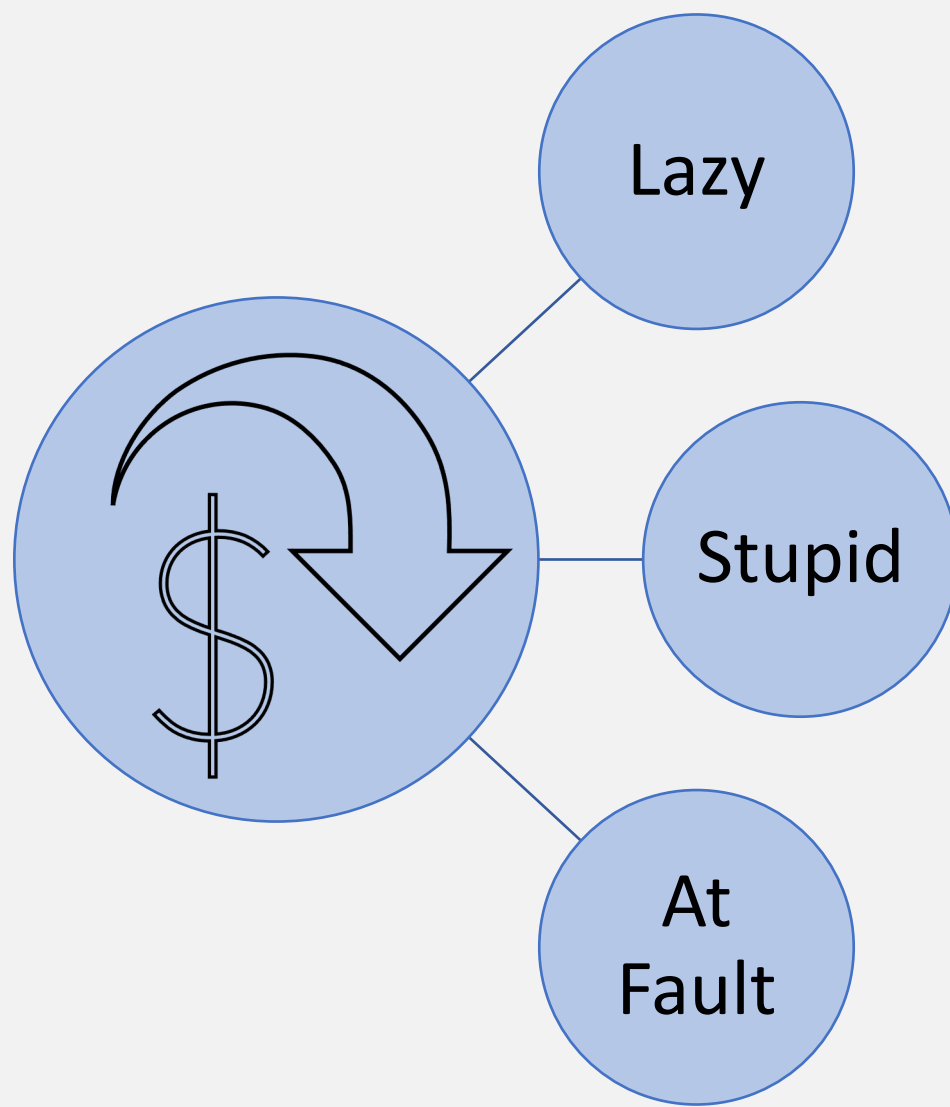


Affect of Stereotypes

By Valparaiso University



Social Perception of Poverty



“People who are poor are poor because of the **poor choices** that they make. They’re drug addicts or engaging in **self-destructive behavior**.”
Ray Suarez – Al Jazeera

“never got a job from a poor person, but those rich people didn’t get rich by being **stupid**.”
Sean Hannity – Fox News

“You know, part of the sort of core of the **conservative message** these days is telling a lot of suburbanites, is telling people who perceive themselves as taxpayers who are under siege that their taxes are so high because the government is taking their money and wasting it on **poor, lazy, undeserving people**... People who don’t understand what work is.”
Chris Matthews - MSNBC

