

Dr. Carol Tavris

“Mistakes Were Made (but not by me)”

- Why do people dodge responsibility when things fall apart?
- Why can we see hypocrisy in others but not in ourselves?
- Why can't public figures “own up” when they screw up?
- Are we all liars, or do we really believe the stories we tell?

At some point we all make a bad decision, do something that harms another person, or cling to an outdated belief. When we do, we strive to reduce the cognitive dissonance that results from feeling that we, who are smart, moral, and right, just did something that was dumb, immoral, or wrong.

In this one-hour talk based on her bestselling book, social psychologist Carol Tavris, Ph.D. explains why it is difficult, and for some people impossible, to say, “I made a terrible mistake.” The higher the stakes—emotional, financial, moral—the greater that difficulty. Self-justification, the hardwired mechanism that blinds us to the possibility that we were wrong, has benefits: It lets us sleep at night and keeps us from torturing ourselves with regrets. But it can also block our ability to see our faults and errors.

Ohlone College Psychology Club

PAST SPEAKERS

- **James Randi** (www.randi.org)
Prophecy, Divination, and Faith Healing
- **Dr. Anthony Pratkanis**
Selling FlimFlam
- **Dr. Eugenie Scott** (www.NCSE.org)
Evolution vs. Creationism
- **Dr. Philip Zimbardo**
Emeritus Professor, Stanford University
The Lucifer Effect
- **Brian Dunning** (www.Skeptoid.com)
Health Scams and Myths
- **Fran and Kim Peek**
The Real Rain Man
- **Dr. Michael Shermer** (www.Skeptic.com)
Why People Believe Weird Things



For more information about the Ohlone College Psychology Club, visit:
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Ohlone College Psychology Department
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Ohlone College Psychology Club

SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS

Dr. Carol Tavris

“Mistakes Were Made (but not by me)”

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2012
7:00 PM

\$15 General
\$10 with Student ID



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Carol Tavis received her Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Michigan, and has taught psychology at the University of California, Los Angeles and the New School for Social Research. She is a fellow of the American

Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science and the Center for Inquiry.

She has spoken to students, psychologists, mediators, lawyers, judges, physicians, business executives, and general audiences on self-justification; science and pseudoscience in psychology; gender and sexuality; critical thinking; and anger, among other topics.

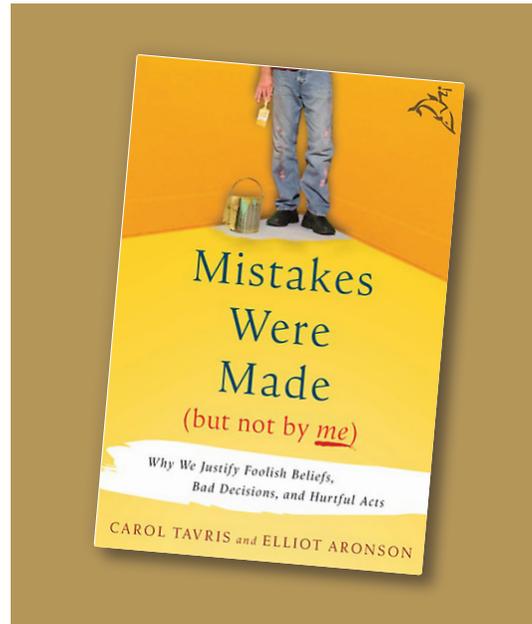
In the legal arena, Dr. Tavis has given many addresses and workshops to attorneys and judges on the difference between testimony based on good psychological science and that based on pseudoscience and subjective clinical opinion.

Her articles, book reviews and op-eds have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, and other publications.

Her most recent book, *"Mistakes Were Made (But Not by ME): Why we justify foolish beliefs, bad decisions, and hurtful acts"*, was coauthored with Elliot Aronson and applies cognitive dissonance theory to a wide variety of topics, including politics, conflicts of interest, memory (everyday and "recovered"), the criminal justice system, police interrogation, the daycare sex-abuse epidemic, family quarrels, international conflicts, and business.

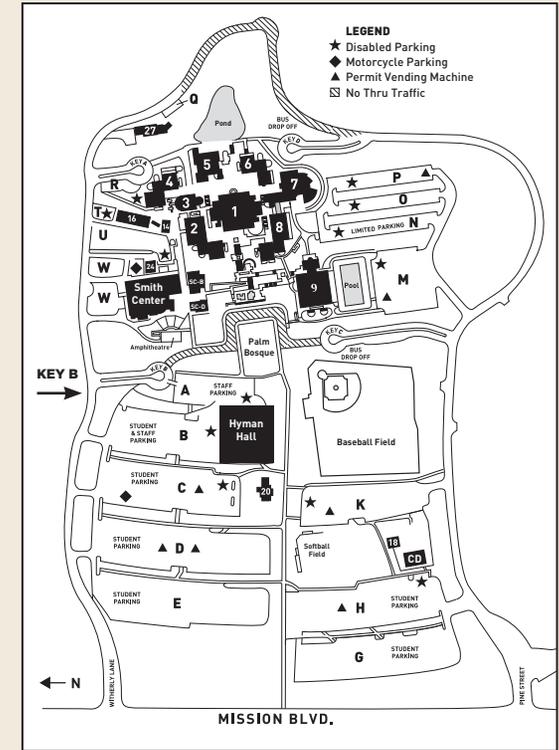
For further information, please see:

www.mistakesweremadebutnotbyme.com



AWARDS & HONORS:

- *Fellow*
American Psychological Association
- *Charter Fellow*
Association for Psychological Science
- *Distinguished Media Contribution Award*
American Association of Applied and Preventive Psychology
- *Heritage Publications Award*
American Psychological Association
- *"Movers and Shakers" Award*
Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research
- *Distinguished Contribution to Women's Health Award*
APA Conference on Women's Health
- *Recognition for contributions to skepticism and science*
Center for Inquiry and the Independent Investigations Group



EVENT PARKING

The most convenient parking for the Smith Center is in lots B, C, D, and E. Event parking is allowed with a semester parking pass or a one-day permit. Disabled parking is located in lot U above the Smith Center with a parking pass or permit. If you do not have a semester permit, you must purchase a \$2 daily permit which is available from vending machines in parking lots C and D. It is possible to drop your party off closer to the theater at Key B, and then rejoin them after parking the car.

OHLONE COLLEGE SMITH CENTER

Box Office Hours:
 Tuesday-Thursday 12 noon to 7 pm
 Friday-Saturday 12 noon to 5 pm
 Box Office opens one hour before performance and closes 30 minutes after start of performance.

Tickets are also available online:
www.SmithCenter.com

"Even irrefutable evidence is rarely enough to pierce the mental armor of self-justification."

CAROL TAVIS