

### Box 1- Implicit mental models

**Example 1** A friend of mine was an immigrant to Australia in 1950 when she was three years old. She was there until she was twenty four, so all her education was within the Australian system. She was taught that Australian history started in 1770 when Captain Cook discovered Australia. She learnt about the first convict settlements, the first settlers, and the explorers who trekked across the outback, opening up trails and discovering Australia. This was the history that all Australian schoolchildren grew up with and it conditioned their mental model of their country. There was no mention of the aborigines, the different tribes and cultures, the genocide carried out by the early settlers and the fact that the aboriginal people had lived in Australia for thousands of years prior to European discovery and settlement. It is no wonder that Australians had a problem with racism and had to painfully correct their own images and understandings of 'their' country.

**Example 2** Another immigrant to Australia in the 1950s was a Jewish Ukrainian who had survived Stalin's persecution of the Ukrainian peasants in the 1930s, the Ukrainians' persecution of the Jews, the persecution of the Jews and Russians by the Germans, and finally his rejection by Russia on the grounds that all Russians who survived in enemy territory were traitors. When I met him he was, in my view, paranoid. He believed that everyone was out to get him. He would not go out and eat in restaurants for fear of being poisoned. He had made quite a lot of money and rejected all overtures of friendship, especially by women, on the grounds that they were just after his money. His belief that everyone was out to get him, clearly founded in a traumatic personal history, completely dominated all his mental models of others and constrained his life completely.