



STEIRISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR
PSYCHOLOGIE

Steirische Gesellschaft für Psychologie

Obfrau: Univ.- Prof. Dr. Karin Landerl
Universität Graz, Institut für Psychologie
Universitätsplatz 2/III, A-8010 Graz, Austria
Tel: +43-316-380-8518, Fax: +43-316-380-9806
E-Mail: karin.landerl@uni-graz.at
Sekretariat: Marco Gaehler
E-Mail: psy.stgp@uni-graz.at
<http://www.uni-graz.at/stgp>

E I N L A D U N G

zum Vortrag

Metakognitive Kurzsichtigkeit

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ein großes Hindernis für rationales Denken und Handeln

von

Prof. Klaus Fiedler, Fachbereich Psychologie, Universität Heidelberg

What I have come to call “meta-cognitive myopia” (MM), using a term once suggested by Robyn Dawes, is the phenomenon that people are pretty accurate in utilizing even large amounts of stimulus information. However, they are uncritical and naïve regarding the history and validity of the given information samples. This uncritical reliance on the information given is most conspicuous when the task context makes it crystal-clear that the stimulus data should not be trusted. I locate MM within a broader framework of meta-cognition research and illustrate the phenomenon with examples from various research paradigms. MM offers an alternative account of many biases in judgment and decision making, which have been traditionally explained in terms of capacity constraints, limited reasoning ability, motivational forces, or severely biased environmental input. The explanatory power of the MM construct, and its theoretical potential to predict new findings, is demonstrated with reference to five paradigms: inability to discard irrelevant information; utilization of selectively sampled information; conditional inference biases; sample-size neglect; and myopia for the impact of aggregation levels. The final discussion is concerned with the learning origins of MM and the question of why evolution did not equip homo sapiens with more effective meta-cognitive tools. An analysis of the costs and benefits will reveal that MM may serve important adaptive functions, and that eliminating MM may have maladaptive effects. Nevertheless, in the context of many real decision problems, the costs and irrational consequences of MM cannot be denied. The final discussion therefore focuses on possible ways to avoid and alleviate MM and its irrational consequences.

Zeit: Freitag, 11.09.2015, 18.00 Uhr

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