

Cognitive debiasing in college environment

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Abstract

In our experiment we wanted to test our theory that successful and long-lasting cognitive debiasing effects can be achieved in a typical college environment (large, lay-audience and limited time frame available). For the experiment we chose conjunction bias as a representative of the “Override failure” group of biases and base rate bias as a representative of the “Mindware failure” group. Debiasing procedure was limited to a 40 minute frontal intervention. Results show that it is indeed possible to achieve significant debiasing effect at both types of biases both short term (right after the intervention) and long-term (8 week after the intervention). These results support the idea the possibility of a general “Cognitive Biases and Cognitive Debiasing” college level course where theory and concepts of cognitive biases, System 1 and System 2 thinking, cognitively hostile environment, rational thinking etc. can be introduced to students.

Keywords

cognitive bias, cognitive debiasing, rationality

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