

A blind man's bluff: choice blindness in eyewitness testimony

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Propositions of the dissertation

A blind man's bluff:

Choice blindness in eyewitness testimony

1. Choice blindness is a threat to the judicial system that has received little - if any - attention from researchers. (*this thesis*)
2. Inadvertent or deliberate manipulations even of minor details can impede the accurate reconstruction of an event and incriminate innocent suspects. (*this thesis*)
3. Choice blindness is a broader construct that integrates effects such as misinformation and post-identification feedback. (*this thesis*)
4. Ambiguity is an essential moderator of choice blindness. (*this thesis*)
5. Low identification accuracy is not a *sine qua non* for blindness for identification decisions. (*this thesis*)
6. The findings of the present dissertation challenge the view of humans as deliberate agents and raise questions about decision making. (*this thesis*)
7. «Ψιθύρισα· Η μνήμη όπου και να την αγγίξεις πονεί» ["I whispered: memory hurts wherever you touch it"]. (*G. Seferis, Greek Poet and Nobel Laureate*)
8. "Whenever a theory appears to you as the only possible one, take this as a sign that you have neither understood the theory nor the problem which it was intended to solve." (*K. R. Popper, Objective Knowledge: An Evolutionary Approach, 1972*)
9. Research in the field of social sciences generates more than economic value alone. Thus, for scientific disciplines such as psychology and law, we certainly have to take a broad perspective on valorisation.
10. «'Εν οἶδα ὅτι οὐδέν οἶδα» ["All I know is that I know nothing"]. (*Socrates*)

Anna Sagana

Maastricht, September 2015