

What to Do When Faced with Evidence of Your Own Rational Failing

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Introspection is far from an infallible, indubitable, and incorrigible guide to the causal factors that contribute to the formation of our doxastic attitudes. Various forms of cognitive bias and motivated cognition (and, more extraordinarily, brute, physiological conditions, e.g., lesions in certain parts of the brain) can negatively affect our reasoning in a manner that is not reliably detectable by peering inwards with an introspective eye. How should evidence that our reasoning is likely susceptible to cognitive biases or other distorting forces in some domain, d , affect what we believe in d ? A cottage industry has arisen in recent years that address what one ought to do in the face evidence of a rational failing (what has been termed 'higher-order evidence'). In this talk I look to explicate what is at stake in debates about the proper response to higher-order evidence.