

The Ernst Strüngmann Forum announces the Open Access publication of

Deliberate Ignorance: Choosing Not to Know

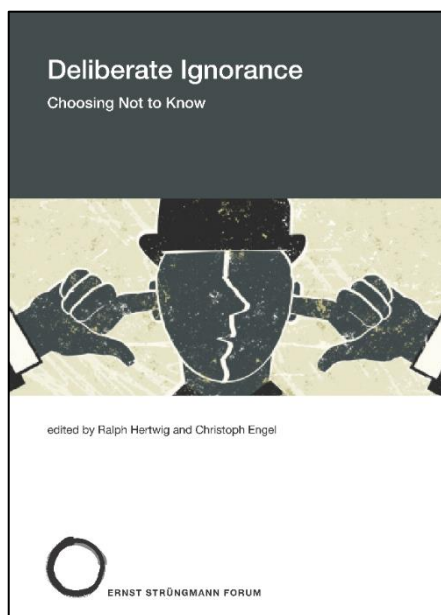
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The history of intellectual thought abounds with claims that knowledge is valued and sought, yet individuals and groups often choose not to know. We call the conscious choice not to seek or use knowledge (or information) *deliberate ignorance*. When is this a virtue, when is it a vice, and what can be learned from formally modeling the underlying motives? On which normative grounds should it be judged? Which institutional interventions can promote or prevent it?

In search of answers, the Ernst Strüngmann Forum invited experts from psychology, economics, history, computer science, sociology, philosophy, and law to scrutinize the phenomenon of deliberate ignorance. Wide-ranging examples spurred the intense discussions: from collective amnesia in transformational societies to the right not to know in genetic testing, blind orchestral auditions, and “don't ask don't tell” policies. This book reports on the novel insights that emerged and outlines avenues for future research into this elusive yet fascinating aspect of human nature.

Endorsements

What do people want to know? This is one of the deepest and most fascinating questions in all of social science. Focusing on deliberate ignorance, Hertwig and Engel offer new and fundamental answers to that question. This book is a major step forward.

– **Cass Sunstein**, *Harvard University*

Is more information desirable? In classical economics, the answer is yes. This book provides compelling theory and examples from medicine, law, and politics to show that, in reality, people often prefer to be uninformed. The result is a fascinating read.

– **Oliver Hart**, *Nobel Laureate in Economics, 2016*

Founded on the tenets of scientific independence and the inquisitive nature of the human mind, the **Ernst Strüngmann Forum** facilitates the expansion of knowledge by providing an open environment for researchers to scrutinize pressing issues from multiple vantage points. The overall goal is not necessarily to achieve consensus but to identify gaps in current knowledge and to assist future research. For further information, see <https://esforum.de>

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