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Merim Bilalić ^[3]

Merim Bilalić,
a Bosnian and Herzegovinian
[psychologist](#) at the [University
Hospital](#) of [University of Tübingen](#)
, and [FIDE Master](#) in chess. He
received his Ph.D. from the
Department of Experimental
Psychology, [Oxford University](#) in
2008 on the topic of [Einstellung
effect](#) in Chess or why good
thoughts block better ones,
supervised by [Peter McLeod](#) and
[Fernand Gobet](#), and was awarded
with the Science Prize of the
[Karpov Chess Academy Rhine-
Neckar](#) for his thesis ^{[1] [2]}.

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Einstellung effect

[Merim Bilalić](#), Why Good Thoughts Block Better Ones: The Mechanism of the Pernicious Einstellung (set) Effect, abstract ^[4]:

The Einstellung (set) effect occurs when the first idea that comes to mind, triggered by familiar features of a problem, prevents a better solution being found. It has been shown to affect both people facing novel problems and experts within their field of expertise. We show that it works by influencing mechanisms that determine what

information is attended to. Having found one solution, expert chess players reported that they were looking for a better one. But their [eye movements](#) showed that they continued to look at features of the problem related to the solution they had already thought of. The mechanism which allows the first schema activated by familiar aspects of a problem to control the subsequent direction of attention may contribute to a wide range of biases both in everyday and expert thought - from confirmation bias in hypothesis testing to the tendency of scientists to ignore results that do not fit their favored theories.

See also

- [Chunking](#)
- [Cognition](#)
- [Psychology](#)

Selected Publications

[5]

- [Merim Bilalić](#), [Peter McLeod](#), [Fernand Gobet](#) (2006). *Does Chess need Intelligence? A study with young chess players*. Intelligence, 35, 457-470, [preprint pdf](#), [final pdf](#)
- [Merim Bilalić](#), [Fernand Gobet](#) (2007). *They do what they are told to do: The influence of instruction on (chess) expert perception - Commentary on Linhares and Brum (2007)*. Cognitive Science. [pdf](#) ^[6]
- [Merim Bilalić](#), [Peter McLeod](#), [Fernand Gobet](#) (2008). [Inflexibility of experts—Reality or myth? Quantifying the Einstellung effect in chess masters](#). Cognitive Psychology, Vol. 56, No. 2
- [Merim Bilalić](#), [Peter McLeod](#), [Fernand Gobet](#) (2008). [Why Good Thoughts Block Better Ones: The Mechanism of the Pernicious Einstellung \(set\) Effect](#). Cognition, Vol. 108, No. 3, [preprint pdf](#)
- [Merim Bilalić](#), [Peter McLeod](#), [Fernand Gobet](#) (2009). [Specialization effect and its influence on memory and problem solving in expert chess players](#). Cognitive Science, Vol. 33, No. 6
- [Merim Bilalić](#), [Robert Langner](#), [Michael Erb](#), [Wolfgang Grodd](#) (2010). [Mechanisms and neural basis of object and pattern recognition: a study with chess experts](#). *Journal of Experimental Psychology General*, Vol. 139, No. 4
- [Merim Bilalić](#), [Luca Turella](#), [Guillermo Campitelli](#), [Michael Erb](#), [Wolfgang Grodd](#) (2011). [Expertise modulates the neural basis of context dependent recognition of objects and their relations](#). *Human Brain Mapping*, Vol. 32
- [Fernand Gobet](#), [Philippe Chassy](#), [Merim Bilalić](#) (2011). *Foundations of Cognitive Psychology*. [McGraw Hill](#) » [amazon.com](#)
- [Merim Bilalić](#), [Peter McLeod](#), [Fernand Gobet](#) (2011). [Expert and “novice” problem solving strategies in chess: Sixty years of citing de Groot \(1946\)](#). Thinking and Reasoning, Vol. 14, No. 4

External Links

- [Merim Bilalic chess games - 365Chess.com](#)
- [Universitätsklinikum Tübingen - Mitarbeiter und Mitarbeiterinnen](#)
- [Karpow - Schachakademie Rhein-Neckar e.V | Verleihung des Wissenschaftspreises 2008/2009](#) (German)
- [Wissenschaftspreis Schach verliehen](#) from [Schach – Ticker](#), September 14, 2009 (German)
- [Wissenschaftspreis der KSA für Merim Bilalic](#), [ChessBase News](#), September 15, 2009 (German)
- [Brettspiel: Schach | Spiele](#), [Zeit online](#), January 4, 2010 (German)
- [Der Psychologe Merim Bilalic erforscht mit Schachproblemen das menschliche Denken](#) [Schwäbisches Tagblatt Tübingen](#), January 13, 2010 (German)
- [Wissenschaftspreis für Dr. Merim Bilalic | lokalmatador.de](#), June 19, 2011
- [Preis der Karpow-Schachakademie verliehen | lokalmatador.de](#), Video, June 19, 2011, with Sponsor [Bernd Wochele](#), [Anatoly Karpov](#), [Hanno Dürr](#), [Robert von Weizsäcker](#) and [Merim Bilalić](#)

References

1. [^ Karpow - Schachakademie Rhein-Neckar e.V.](#)
2. [^ Wissenschaftspreis für Dr. Merim Bilalic | lokalmatador.de](#), June 19, 2011
3. [^ Karpow - Schachakademie Rhein-Neckar e.V | Verleihung des Wissenschaftspreises 2008/2009](#)
4. [^ Merim Bilalić](#), [Peter McLeod](#), [Fernand Gobet](#) (2008). [Why Good Thoughts Block Better Ones: The Mechanism of the Pernicious Einstellung \(set\) Effect](#). *Cognition*, Vol. 108, No. 3, [preprint pdf](#)
5. [^ DBLP: Merim Bilalic](#)
6. [^ Alexandre Linhares](#), [Paulo Brum](#) (2007). [Understanding our understanding of strategic scenarios: What role do chunks play](#). *Cognitive Science*, 31, [pdf](#)
7. [^ Alexandre Linhares](#), [Paulo Brum](#) (2009). [How Can Experts See the Invisible? Reply to Bilalic and Gobet](#). *Cognitive Science*, Vol 33, No. 5

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Guillermo Campitelli	Jul 1, 2014
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Paulo Brum	Nov 7, 2012
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Peter McLeod	Nov 4, 2012
Philippe Chassy	May 11, 2017

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