



Enemies Of Judgement

Garry Honey | Founder, CHIRON Risk

11:00, Wednesday, 07 August 2024



A Word From Our Chairman



Mike Wardle
CEO
Z/Yen Group





















































































































Today's Agenda

- 11:00 11:05 Chairman's Introduction
- 11:05 11:25 Keynote Presentation Garry Honey
- 11:25 11:45 Question & Answer



Today's Speaker



Garry Honey
Founder
CHIRON Risk

Enemies of Judgement

Making better decisions

By Garry Honey Henley Business School

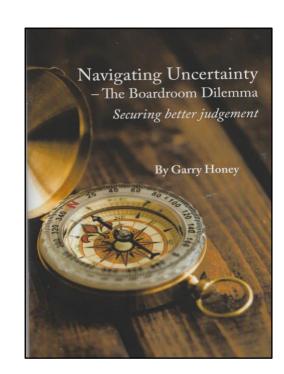


FS Club Wednesday, 07 August 2024

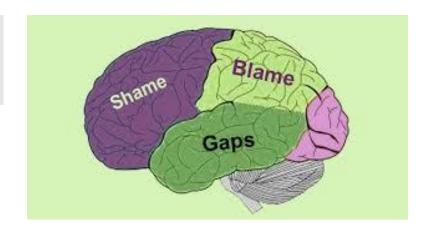
Garry Honey



- Strategy consultant, author & advisor
 Author of 'Navigating Uncertainty'-
- Teaches on Henley masters programme MABPD Board Practice & Development
- Handling risk in board meetings –
 Decision risks not operational risks



Why judgement matters



We explore risk to secure good judgement

Judgement is a combination of information plus estimation

• Estimation where we paper over our **ignorance**

It is also the space where we permit bias to cloud rationality

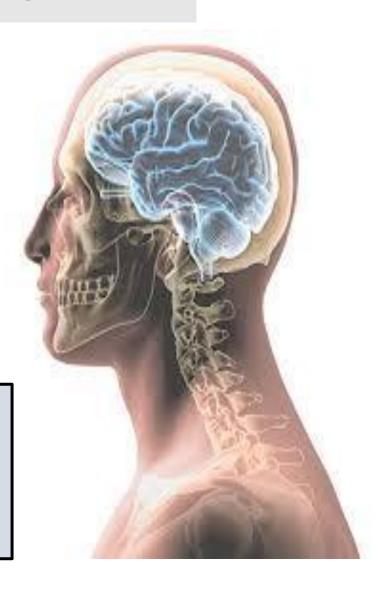
Twin enemies of good judgement

Ignorance

What we don't know

Intractable uncertainty
What can't be known

Imperfect information
What can be known but isn't



Bias

What we think we know

Perceptions & beliefs
Individual experience & opinion

Prejudice & politics
Collective preferences & wisdom



- Acquisitional ignorance: 'the act of maintaining one's ignorance because the anticipated costs of becoming informed outweigh the anticipated benefits of being informed. Acquiring knowledge has cost, both opportunity costs and various costs involved in the process of acquisition'.
- Motivated ignorance: 'involves a form of ignorance that is driven not by the costs of acquiring knowledge but by an active aversion to possessing it'. Example: given the chance to have a test for cancer 'I don't want the test because I might discover something I would rather not know'.

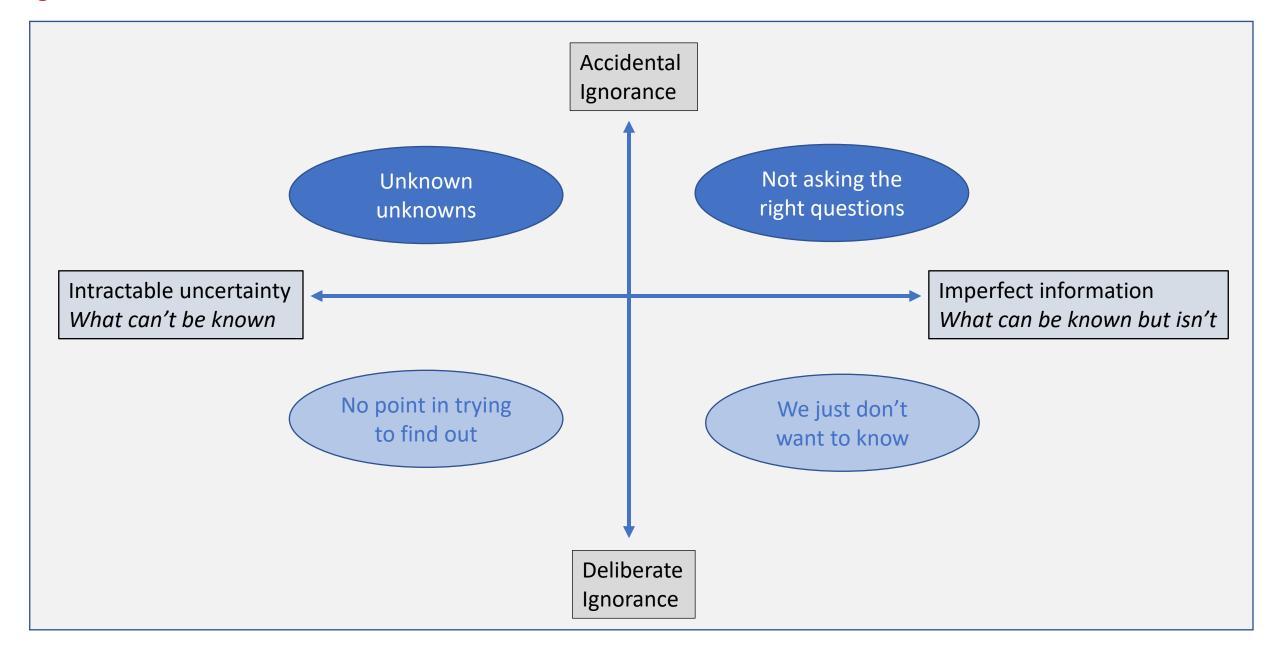
Source: **Motivated Ignorance**. Daniel Williams, Synthese. Feb 2020

https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11229-020-02549-8

- **Deliberate ignorance**: the conscious choice not to seek information, not necessarily because the knowledge might prove disturbing or problematic. There may be other political, social or economic reasons to remain ignorant. Example: 'Is that a burglar in my neighbour's house?'
- Accidental ignorance: this is where knowledge was assumed to be sufficient in order to make a decision but was subsequently found to be inadequate. Innocent and most frequent type of ignorance in board decisions given cognitive bias towards optimisitic outcomes.

Source: **Deliberate Ignorance** - choosing not to know. Hertwig & Engel. Mar 2021

Ignorance

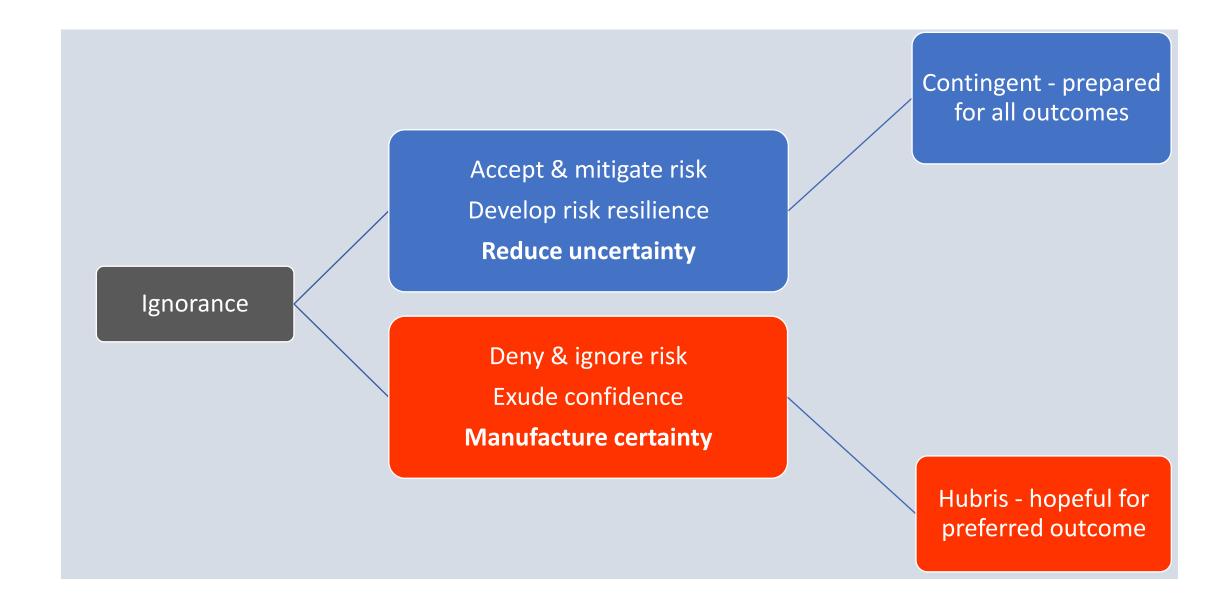


Dunning-Kruger



"Let me interrupt your expertise with my confidence."

Responding to ignorance





Predicting the future

- Estimation envisions a future outcome – like strategy & risk
- Prediction carries risk as you can be lucky or wrong
- Foresight recognises alternative future outcomes
- **Confidence** is a key element of judgement, but can be hubristic



Decision dilemma

How much is **enough** information?

3. Do we live with this *uncertainty* or should we await more information?

1. Do we have enough reliable information to make informed decisions?

2. If not, are we clear how much we are using assumptions to mask our ignorance?

Summary part 1 - Coping with ignorance

• Distinguish Imperfective Information from Intractable uncertainty

- Focus on tackling imperfect information, accept intractable uncertainty
- Be aware of the **information:estimation** ratio eg 60:40, 70:30, 80:20

• Identify what supports the estimation: experience, intuition or trust?

Part 2 Bias – the impact of cognitive bias

• Recognised by Behavioural Science as **Heuristics**

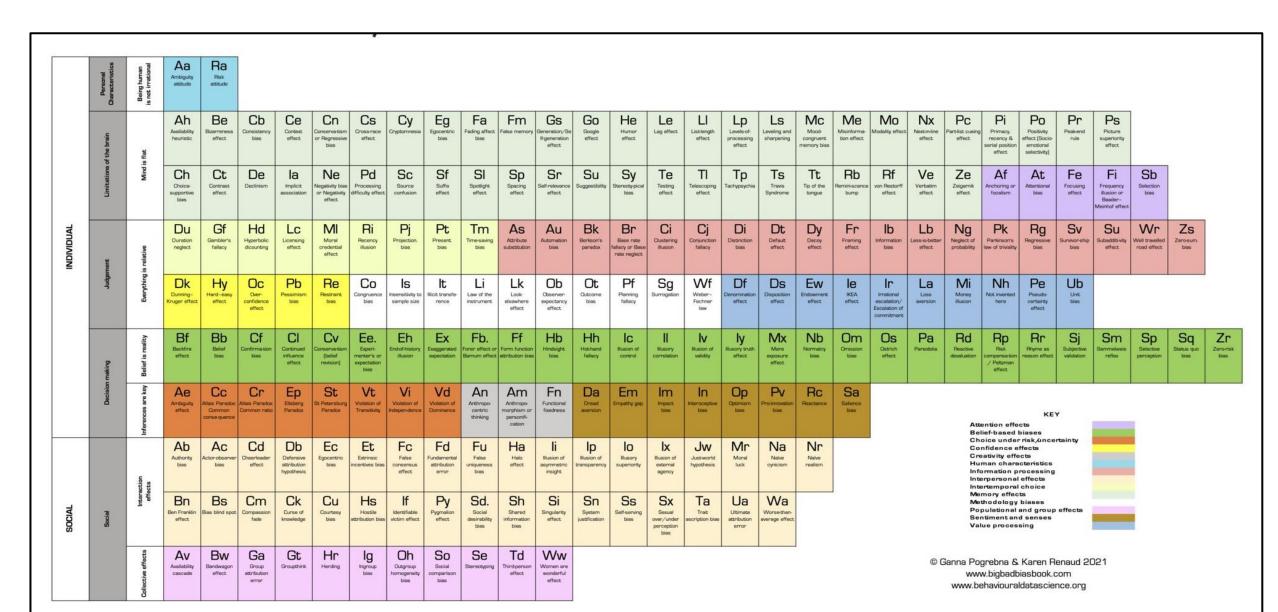
• We do not make **rational** decisions but **emotional** ones

Many studies on different types of bias

Some say there are hundreds of distinct ones



Periodic table of bias types



Understanding bias

• At board level – combination of the **individual** and **collective**

• Individual bias is derived from experience & belief of one person

• Collective bias is a compound of culture & conventional wisdom

At least four causal types -

categories common in board bias

Individual

Personal Perception

- Familiarity
- Brain speed
- Loss aversion

Behavioural

Group Decisions

- Obedience to authority
- Dissonance reduction
- Groupthink

Structural

Infrequent Meetings

- Agenda pressure
- Patterning & availability
- Hindsight

Operational

Project Progress

- Confirmation
- Over-optimism
- Escalation of commitment

Plotting bias categories

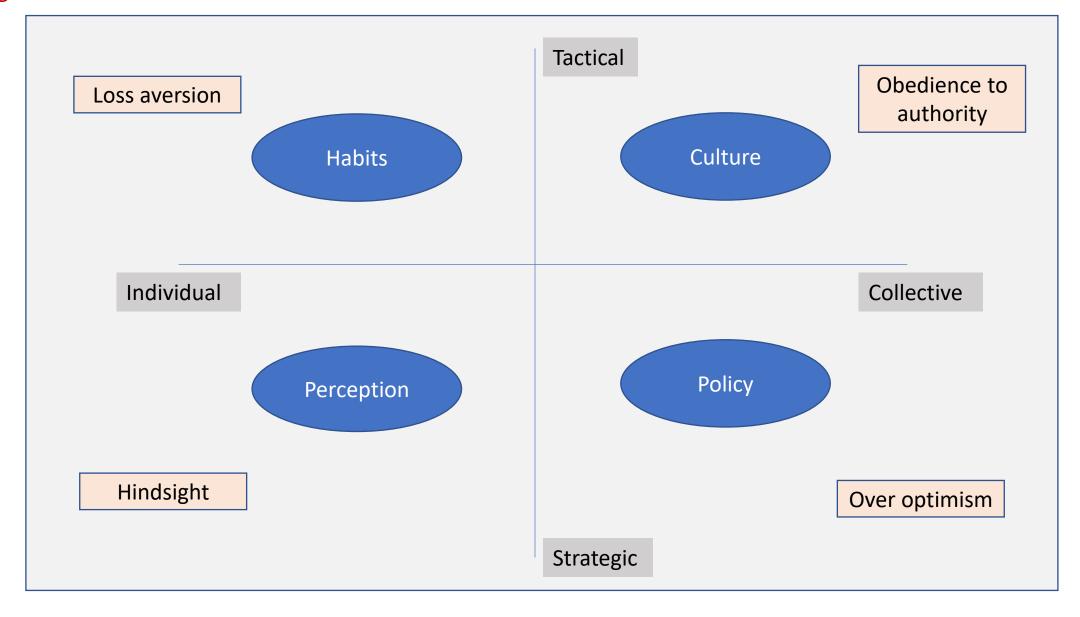
• One axis uses the **individual** to **collective** spectrum

This looks at how bias emerges due to group dynamics

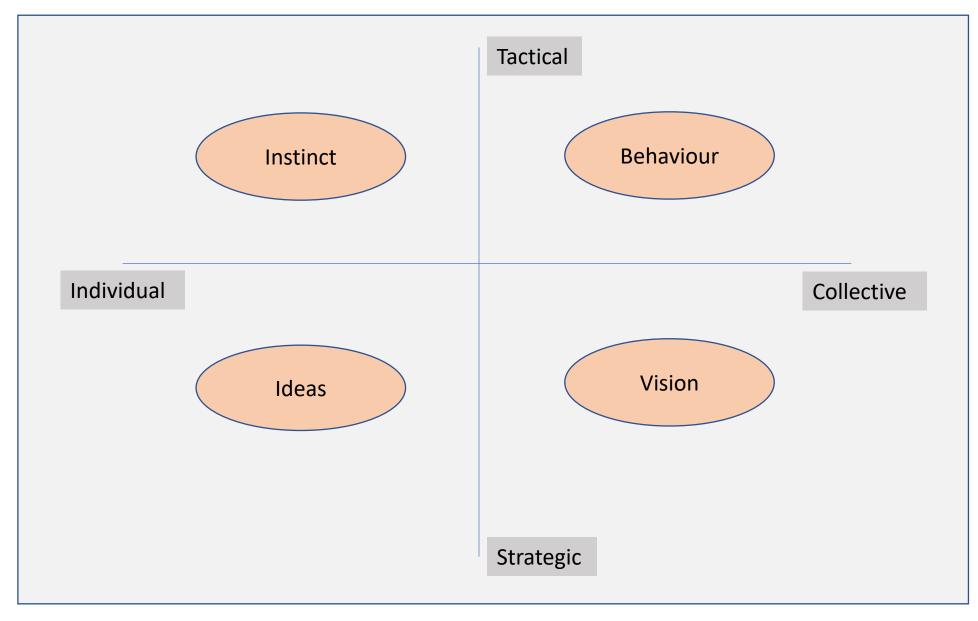
Another axis plots decision on a tactical to strategic spectrum

This looks at how bias relates to the nature of decision itself

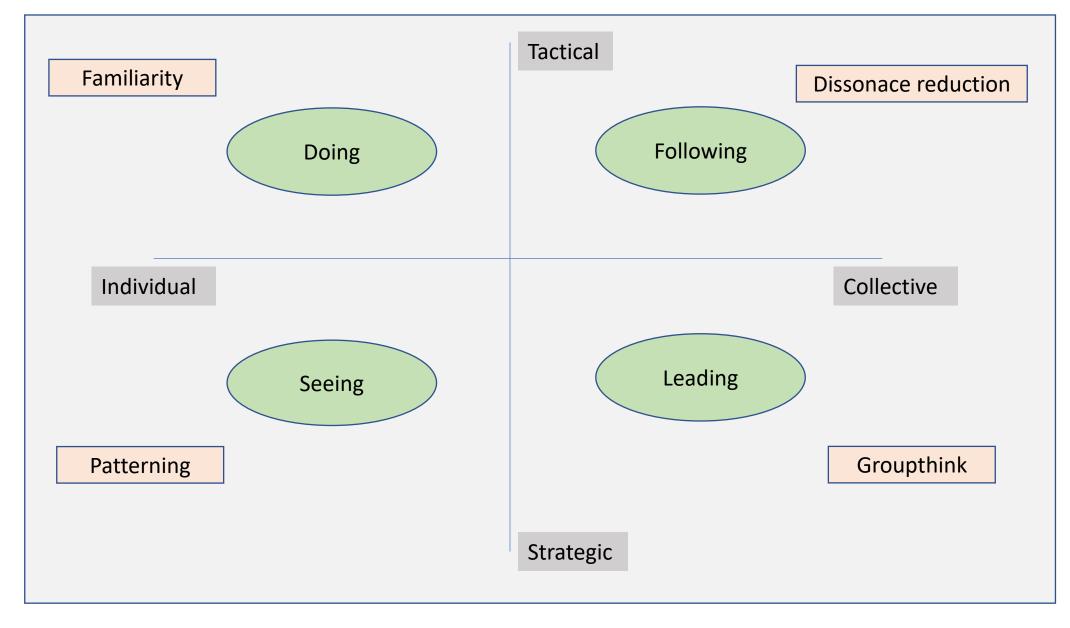
Cognitive bias -



Cognitive bias -



Cognitive bias -



Summary part 2 – coping with bias



- Bias is often easy to see but hard to counter.
- Different bias types require different counter-measures.

• Examples:

Bias type	Neutralising action	Suggestions
Groupthink	Encourage diversity of opinion	Seek different viewpoints from outside
Dissonance reduction	Encourage dissenting views	Appoint a 'Devil's Advocate' role
Optimism bias	Listen to those with nothing to gain	Arrange a 'Reality check' on outcomes
Patterning bias	Avoid looking for patterns/hindsight	Accept this might be unprecedented
Loss aversion	Recognise the risk benefit	Reappraise the opportunity for gain

Conclusion



Good judgement is hampered by twin enemies: ignorance & bias

Why do decisions need to be take with imperfect knowledge?

• What underpins the estimation element – is it simply gut-feel?

Confidence is no guarantee of accuracy –

Quotes -

'In order for you to feel confident in a judgement two conditions must be satisfied: the story you believe must be comprehensively coherent, and there must be no attractive alternatives.'

'Noise – a flaw in human judgment' 2021

Further reading -

- Risk Savvy How to Make Good Decisions Gerd Gigerenzer, 2001
- Thinking, Fast & Slow Daniel Kahneman, 2011
- Super-Forecasting, the art & science of prediction Philip Tetlock & Dan Gardner, 2015
- Thinking in Bets, making smarter decisions Annie Duke, 2019
- **Decision making under deep uncertainty** Marchau, Bloemen, Walker Popper, 2020
- Motivated Ignorance Daniel Williams, 2020
- **Deliberate Ignorance** Hertwig & Engel, 2021
- Noise, a flaw in human judgement Kahneman, Sibony & Sunstein, 2021
- The Intelligence of Intuition Gerd Gigerenzer, 2023



Comments, Questions & Answers























































































































Forthcoming Events

- Tuesday, 13 August 2024 (11:00 11:45 BST) New Frontiers In Assistive Tech: Bionic Prosthetics And Soft Prosthetics
- Thursday, 15 August 2024 (15:00 15:45 BST) Disabled Entrepreneurs In London: Are They Getting A Fair Deal?
- Wednesday, 21 August 2024 (11:00 11:45 BST) Taking A Positive Approach To An Older Demographic... Using Blue Zones & Evergreen Lenses

Visit: https://fsclub.zyen.com/events/forthcoming-events/

Watch past webinars: https://www.youtube.com/zyengroup