

# The Cornell Effect

Jeffrey J. Wolynski  
Jeffrey.wolynski@yahoo.com

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Cocoa, FL 32922

Abstract: A new cognitive bias/fallacy is given definition so that it can be spotted in the future based on the author's experience with sharing a new understanding of nature.

Halton Arp:

*"I gloomily came to the ironic conclusion that if you take a highly intelligent person and give them the best possible, elite education, then you will most likely wind up with an academic who is completely impervious to reality."*

The Dunning-Kruger Effect:

Dunning and Kruger proposed that, for a given skill, incompetent people will:

1. fail to recognize their own lack of skill
2. fail to recognize the extent of their inadequacy
3. fail to accurately gauge skill in others
4. recognize and acknowledge their own lack of skill only after they are exposed to training for that skill

The Cornell Effect is very similar and explains Halton Arp's observations.

Highly educated people after schooling will:

1. fail to recognize their own ignorance
2. fail to recognize the extent of their ignorance
3. fail to accurately gauge the ignorance of other highly educated people
4. fail to recognize and acknowledge their own ignorance even after they are exposed to more reasonable ideas and processes they consider to come from uneducated people or those outside their field of study

The Cornell effect does not apply to ignorance of those who do not have formal educations, it applies to people who are so far educated, that they become institutionalized, a pervasive all-encompassing ignorance that is invisible to the most expert of experts. The Cornell effect is a permanent ignorance, an ignorance that no education can fix. Lord Kelvin himself was subject to the Cornell effect when he denied that there was such thing as "nuclear energy". Stephen Hawking as well suffers from it, as there is no place in stellar evolution for singularities. It is proposed that there is an effective middle ground for education. Too much education breeds institutionalization and the Cornell effect, too little education breeds the Dunning-Kruger effect. The only downside is that the Dunning-Kruger effect can be mitigated, the Cornell effect is a permanent ignorance, bulwarked by social status, ego, careerism and false knowledge. It is like that saying, it is harder unlearning something than learning it, or it is easy to fool someone, harder to convince them they have been fooled. As well, it ties into the idea that educated people ignore the uneducated because they believe that they'd have nothing important to say, which ties in the Cornell effect to the Michelson fallacy. It is the belief that the fundamental principles of nature have already been discovered, and/or if there were something important to be known, the studying physicist who claims the former would be the first to know of it. It is not education that cures ignorance, it is the ability to recognize ignorance which cures ignorance.