

Cognitive Bias #6 — Conservation

Nobody asked but ...

This does not mean leaning to the political right, nor does it mean stewardship of scarce resources. It means, as Alexander Pope wrote, “Be not the first by whom the new are tried.” It might be said that this is the opposite of the Recency Bias. New, emergent information is, by its nature, difficult to confirm.

I saw this reluctance to turn toward the new, today, in a group when we were told that 40% of illegal immigrants are not land border crossers, but commercial air passengers who enter legally, but eventually overstay their visas. This was hard cheese for those whom may be the last to lay the old aside.

— Kilgore Forelle