

## **UC Merced**

### **Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society**

#### **Title**

The hindsight bias in temporal predictions of animated automobile accidents

#### **Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7t0901jk>

#### **Journal**

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 32(32)

#### **ISSN**

1069-7977

#### **Authors**

Calvillo, Dustin  
Gomes, Dayna

#### **Publication Date**

2010

Peer reviewed

# The hindsight bias in temporal predictions of animated automobile accidents

**Dustin Calvillo**

California State University San Marcos

**Dayna Gomes**

California State University, Los Angeles

**Abstract:** The hindsight bias occurs when people judge the outcome of an event as more predictable than it actually was before it occurred. The current experiment examined the hindsight bias in animations of automobile accidents. Participants viewed eight animations in one of two conditions. Those in the foresight condition were told that some animations contained accidents and were instructed to stop the animation when they were certain that an accident would occur. Those in the hindsight condition were told that all animations contained accidents and viewed each animation twice. They viewed the entire animation first. On the second viewing, they stopped the animation when they thought a naïve viewer would be certain an accident would occur. Those in the hindsight condition stopped the animations closer to when the accident actually occurred than those in the foresight condition, demonstrating a hindsight bias.