# Article information:

Driving on familiar roads: Automaticity and inattention blindness - ScienceDirect  
<https://www-sciencedirect-com.libezproxy.open.ac.uk/science/article/pii/S1369847813000326?via%3Dihub=>

# Article summary:

1. Extended practice in driving familiar routes can lead to automaticity, transforming effortful and deliberate driving into effortless proficiency.

2. Familiarity with a road can result in drivers experiencing driving without awareness or inattention blindness, where they may fail to notice important changes in the environment.

3. The tandem model of skilled performance suggests that repeated practice leads to a reliance on unconscious monitoring processes, reducing the need for active attention during driving tasks.

# Article rating:

May be slightly imbalanced: The article presents the information in a generally reliable way, but there are minor points of consideration that could be explored further or claims that are not fully backed by appropriate evidence. Some perspectives may also be omitted, and you are encouraged to use the research topics section to explore the topic further.

# Article analysis:

The article "Driving on familiar roads: Automaticity and inattention blindness" provides an in-depth exploration of the effects of repeated exposure to road or traffic situations on driving performance. The authors discuss the concept of automaticity in driving, where skills become proceduralized with extended practice, leading to effortless proficiency. They also delve into the phenomenon of inattention blindness, where drivers may fail to consciously notice important changes in the environment due to selective attention.

One potential bias in the article is the focus on experienced drivers and their ability to detect changes in familiar driving environments. While it is important to understand how familiarity impacts driving performance, there is limited discussion on novice drivers or those who may not have as much experience on the road. This could lead to a skewed perspective on the overall impact of automaticity and inattention blindness across different driver populations.

Additionally, the article makes several claims about how repeated practice can lead to a reduction in cognitive demand and mental workload for drivers. While this may be true for some aspects of driving, it fails to consider potential risks associated with decreased attention and vigilance on familiar roads. For example, if drivers become too reliant on automatic processes, they may overlook critical hazards or unexpected events that require immediate intervention.

Furthermore, the article suggests that deliberate attention to one's own performance on a skilled task can lead to deterioration in performance, citing Humphrey's Law. While this concept has been widely discussed in psychology literature, it would have been beneficial for the authors to provide more empirical evidence or studies supporting this claim within the context of driving behavior.

Overall, while the article offers valuable insights into how familiarity impacts driving performance and attentional processes, there are areas where further research and consideration are needed. By addressing potential biases, exploring alternative perspectives, and providing a more balanced view of the implications of automaticity and inattention blindness on driving safety, future studies can offer a more comprehensive understanding of these complex phenomena.

# Topics for further research:

* Effects of automaticity on novice drivers
* Risks of decreased attention on familiar roads
* Cognitive demand and mental workload in driving
* Humphrey's Law in driving performance
* Impact of deliberate attention on driving skills
* Alternative perspectives on inattention blindness in driving

# Report location:

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