

Non-Rational Factors in Belief-Retention

One continues to believe X despite good reasons / sufficient evidence for not-X ...

- One ***rejects the argument*** for not-X and its claim / conclusion ***for no good reasons*** – simply for the purpose of continuing to believe X
- One ***ignores the argument*** for not-X and its claim / conclusion ***for no good reasons*** – simply for the purpose of continuing to believe X

Because:

- 1. One has grown up being told – believing X is the case**
 - Thus, change of belief would be a painful break from one's past
- 2. One has been told that X is the case by significant, loved, trusted persons**
 - Thus, change of belief would be a painful rejection of their testimony and risk personal alienation from them
 - Change of belief would risk being alienated or painfully rejected by them
- 3. The people one belongs to / identifies with people who believe X
(One is "socially invested" in believing X)**
 - Thus, change of belief it would be socially painful rejection of / break from the group and its beliefs
 - Believing differently, one would risk a socially painful rejection by / alienation by the group
 - It might be an issue of *group and group-member narcissism* ("We, thus I, cannot be wrong about X!")
- 4. One is "personally invested" - emotionally, intellectually (and spiritually) - in believing X**
 - Thus, change of belief would require a personal re-orientation of one's views / beliefs that would be intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually painful
 - It might be an issue of *personal narcissism* ("I cannot be wrong about X!")
- 5. One's personal-existential identity is constituted by one's belief X**
 - Thus, one would "no longer be the same person" if one stopped believing X
 - "Who Am / What am I ... if I no longer believe X?"
 - Therefore, "I MUST go on believing X!"