

## Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/inhibition-and-paradoxical-choice/>

This video discusses research on how animals, particularly pigeons, respond to reward-seeking behavior and how information can function as a reward, similar to food. It describes a paradoxical choice procedure where pigeons choose between two keys: one leading to food 20% of the time (the informative key) and the other 50% of the time (the non-informative key). Surprisingly, pigeons often prefer the informative key, even though it has a lower reward probability, because it provides certainty about whether they will receive food.

This video details an experiment in which pigeons learn to expect different outcomes based on colored lights following their choices. If they choose the informative key, they receive a clear signal that they will or won't receive food. In contrast, choosing the non-informative key leaves them uncertain about the outcome.

Researchers manipulated the cues following each choice to examine how uncertainty affected decision-making. One manipulation made the informative key less reliable, leading to a decline in its preference, while another found that reducing the reward probability for the non-informative key resulted in a higher choice frequency for it. The findings suggest that both positive and negative information play crucial roles in guiding choices, as they help reduce uncertainty.

Overall, the research highlights how both good and bad news is valuable for decision-making processes, indicating that the need for certain information drives preference in reward-related tasks.