

A point no one has (apparently) made before

July 17, 2013

The Washington Post:

One of the great intellectual pleasures is to hear an idea that not only seems right, but that strikes you as so terribly obvious (now that you've heard it) you're in disbelief that no one has ever made the point before.

I tasted that pleasure this week, courtesy of a paper by Walter Boot and colleagues (2013).

The paper concerned the adequacy of control groups in intervention studies—interventions like (but not limited to) “brain games” meant to improve cognition, and the playing of video games, thought to improve certain aspects of perception and attention.

To appreciate the point made in this paper, consider what a control group is supposed to be and do. It is supposed to be a group of subjects as similar to the experimental group as possible, except for the critical variable under study.

Read the whole story: [*The Washington Post*](#)