

PHILOSOPHY

# WINNING UGLY

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It is my impression (and it may be wrong) while reading old Nature volumes that research a few decades ago has been done *inter alia* or *inter pares*. In contrast, competition is now being much more favored by research politicians and scientists as well. "[Winning ugly](#)" – the title of a tennis book – is getting more and more acceptable, although [empirical re-search](#) clearly shows the disadvantage of this strategy.

Lars Bremer has an interview with Matthias Feist the [famous programmer](#) of chess programmer: "My hand shivered when Fritz played Dxd8..." There is nothing against fair competition and winning any prize may be beautiful. Winning ugly, however, remains ugly, yea, yea.

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