

Remembrance of things past : the cognitive psychology of remembering and forgetting trauma

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STELLINGEN

behorend bij het proefschrift: REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST:

The Cognitive Psychology of Remembering and Forgetting Trauma

1. So far, there is no solid evidence for the idea that people may repress their traumatic memories (this thesis).
2. Therapists should be aware that memory work might amplify the recovery of *false* memories of childhood abuse (this thesis).
3. Spontaneously recovered memories of abuse may represent authentic abuse events (this thesis).
4. In her report on the issue, the Dutch Health Council addressed false memories at length, yet it would have been wise if it also would have considered the link between genuine “recovered” memories and underestimation of prior remembering (this thesis).
5. Traumatic memories are as special as “neutral” memories (this thesis).
6. A plausible explanation as to why Posttraumatic Stress Disorder has so often been the object of intense controversy is that victims’ problems have led clinical researchers to defer their scientific skepticism.
7. A general lack of independent corroborative evidence for childhood abuse events is the Achilles’ heel in the field of trauma and memory.
8. The memory wars aren’t over: the best is yet to come.
9. Research is warranted to examine the relationship between traumatic memories and repressive coping.
10. Every PhD student should make contact with at least one researcher from another laboratory if only to broaden his/her view about the topic he/she is studying.
11. Information is silver, reasoning is gold.
12. To become more assertive, every Belgian should work in the Netherlands for at least one year.