True and False Recovered Memories

Toward a Reconciliation of the Debate

Beginning in the 1990s, the contentious “memory wars” divided psychologists into two schools of thought: that adults’ recovered memories of childhood abuse were generally true, or that they were generally not, calling theories, therapies, professional ethics, and survivor credibility into question. More recently, findings from cognitive psychology and neuroimaging as well as new theoretical constructs are bringing balance, if not reconciliation, to this polarizing debate. Based on presentations at the 2010 Nebraska Symposium on Motivation, True and False Recovered Memories: Toward a Reconciliation of the Debate assembles an expert panel of scholars, professors, and clinicians to update and expand research and knowledge about the complex interaction of cognitive, emotional, and motivational factors involved in remembering—and forgetting—severe childhood trauma. Contrasting viewpoints, elaborations on existing ideas, challenges to accepted models, and intriguing experimental data shed light on such issues as the intricacies of identity construction in memory, post-trauma brain development, and the role of suggestive therapeutic techniques in creating false memories. Taken together, these papers add significant new data to the current state of the debate on childhood trauma.

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Peace Psychology in Australia

As the world’s largest island and the only country that is also a continent, Australia holds a unique place among nations. At the same time, its history of colonialism, racial oppression, and reconciliation attempts, the island also stands as a microcosm of global interest in peacebuilding. Peace Psychology in Australia shows peace efforts making inroads as this large, diverse country undergoes rapid social change. The book brings into focus the history of relations between Indigenous peoples and the descendents of British and other settlers, the experiences of recent immigrants, and the perspectives of peace professionals on how to achieve a more cooperative and less fragmented society. Chapters identify key factors in successful integration, analyzing the intricate balance between valuing diversity and promoting common bonds, values, and identity. The range of historical and contemporary issues featured includes the country’s hidden history of structural inequity, the rich tradition of Indigenous methods of resolving conflicts, and Australia’s unique possibilities for social justice. And peace psychologists are shown in context, whether advocating for asylum seekers or working with men’s groups to rethink the long-prevailing culture of male domination. Included in this important volume: Immigration and Australian national identity. Encouraging respect for diversity in the schools. Community development in Indigenous empowerment. Stereotypes: hidden obstacles to reconciliation. Peace objectives in the era of climate change. Practical and research challenges for the future. For peace psychologists, political scientists, and policymakers, Peace Psychology in Australia offers real-world lessons that can benefit people worldwide, and a foundation for peace work to come.


Consumer-Run Mental Health Framework for Recovery

Consumer-Run Mental Health Framework for Recovery. Louis D. Brown. Conceived of as an empowering alternative to inpatient treatment and traditional community programs, mental health consumer-run organizations—CROs—offer consumers a hands-on stake in their own recovery. A growing evidence base suggests that CROs are a particularly effective form of self-help, with randomized trials demonstrating CRO participants experience improvements in personal empowerment, social integration, and well-being. Consumer-Run Mental Health explains their methods and analyzes their efficacy. A robust theoretical framework synthesizes diverse perspectives to illuminate behavioral processes that contribute to recovery and the dynamics of CROs in creating environments that promote recovery. Data from the author’s studies of CRO participation highlight consumer perceptions of the benefits of their involvement. An in-depth ethnographic study examines participant’s lives inside and outside the organization. And in a set of remarkable narratives, consumers describe dealing with both mental illness and the tasks of running a non-profit organization, for a fuller understanding of the impact of CRO participation on their lives. By emphasizing consumer roles within the organization, the book breaks down the mental health CRO experience into these vital topics: Person-environment interaction within CROs. Developing empowering and socially supportive roles. Resource exchange, skill development, and identity transformation. Life history narratives: the lived experience of CRO participation. How organizations influence role development. The impact of role development on recovery. Implications for practice. Opening up about rarely-addressed concepts of self-help, Consumer-Run Mental Health is a unique reference for researchers who study peer-run organizations as well as practitioners in community mental health settings who are involved in collaborating with or supporting CROs.

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The conscious mind defines human existence. Many consider the brain as a computer, and they attempt to explain consciousness as emerging at a critical, but unspecified, threshold level of complex computation among neurons. The brain-as-computer model, however, fails to account for phenomenal experience and portrays consciousness as an impotent, after-the-fact epiphenomenon lacking causal power. And the brain-as-computer concept precludes even the remotest possibility of spirituality. As described throughout the history of humankind, seemingly spiritual mental phenomena, including transcendent states, near-death and out-of-body experiences, and past-life memories have recently been well documented and treated scientifically. In addition, the brain-as-computer approach has been challenged by advocates of quantum brain biology, who are possibly able to explain, scientifically, nonlocal, seemingly spiritual mental states. Exploring Frontiers of the Mind-Brain Relationship argues against the purely physical analysis of consciousness and for a balanced psychobiological approach. This thought-provoking volume bridges philosophy of mind with science of mind to empirically examine transcendent phenomena, such as mystic states, near-death experiences and past-life memories, that have confounded scientists for decades. Representing disciplines ranging from philosophy and history to neuroimaging and physics, and boasting a panel of expert scientists and physicians, including Andrew Newberg, Peter Fenwick, Stuart Hameroff, Mario Beauregard, Deepak Chopra, and Chris Clarke the book rigorously follows several lines of inquiry into mind–brain controversies, challenging readers to form their own conclusions—or reconsider previous ones. It is essential reading for researchers and clinicians across many disciplines, including cognitive psychology, personality and social psychology, the neurosciences, neuropsychiatry, palliative care, philosophy, and quantum physics. “This book ... brings together some precious observations about the fundamental mystery of the nature of consciousness ... It raises many questions that serve to invite each of us to be more aware of the uncertainty of our preconceptions about consciousness ... This book on the frontiers of mind–body relationships is a scholarly embodiment of creative and open-minded science.” C. Robert Cloninger, MD

Wallace Renard Professor of Psychiatry, Genetics, and Psychology
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis MO

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Cognitive Remediation for Brain Injury and Neurological Illness

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Freud on Interpretation

The Ancient Magical Egyptian and Jewish Traditions

Freud on Interpretation The Ancient Magical Egyptian and Jewish Traditions Robert W. Rieber, in collaboration with David Bakan In its early days, some saw psychology as a substitute for religion. Others regarded it as a new religion in its own right. What was less obvious today--were the roots of Freud's work in the ancient mystical teachings of the Middle East. A
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