

Veracity of recovered memory

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- *From:* childadvocate <smartnews@xxxxxxx>
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<http://ritualabuse.us/research/>

The hypothesis that false memories can easily be implanted in psychotherapy (Lindsay & Read, 1994; Loftus 1993; Loftus & Ketcham, 1994; Ofshe and Watters, 1993, 1994; Yapko, 1994a) seriously overstates the available data. Since no studies have been conducted on suggested effects in psychotherapy per se, the idea of iatrogenic suggestion of false memories remains an untested hypothesis. (Memory, Trauma Treatment, And the Law Brown, Schefflin and Hammond (D. Corydon), 1998, W. W. Norton 0-393-70254-5)

<http://www.jimhopper.com/memory-decision> (the first page (.com) links to other pages of interest also) "The Validity of Recovered Memory: Decision of a US District Court"

http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Taubman_Center/Recovmem/Archive.html

It has archives of corroborated cases of recovered memory, some from legal proceedings, full-text articles and abstracts on recovered memories, 22 peer reviewed studies on amnesia and child abuse, 24 publications on traumatic amnesia in Holocaust survivors, etc.

Here is some data from the peer-reviewed studies:

"The recovery of memories in clinical practice: Experiences and beliefs of British Psychological Society practitioners" Andrews, Bernice; Morton, John; Bekerian, Debra A.; Brewin, Chris R.; Davis, Graham M.; Mollon, Phil *The Psychologist* 1995 May, Vol. 8, pp. 209-214
" "...recovery from total amnesia of past traumatic material involving both CSA and non-CSA experiences is (not) uncommon" ... our large-scale survey confirms and extends previous research.... Memory recovery appears to be a robust and frequent phenomenon."

"Recall of childhood trauma: A prospective study of women's memories of child sexual abuse." Williams, Linda Meyer U New Hampshire, Family Research Lab, Durham, US *Journal of Consulting & Clinical Psychology* 1994 Dec Vol 62(6) 1167-1176 In a study of 129 women "with previously

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documented histories of sexual victimization" A large proportion of the women (38%) did not recall the abuse that had been reported 17 years earlier." Women younger in age when abused and women "molested by someone they knew were more likely to have no recall of the abuse...Long periods with no memory of abuse should not be regarded as evidence that the abuse did not occur."

"Recovered memories of abuse among therapy patients: A national survey." Pope, Kenneth S.; Tabachnick, Barbara G. Independent practice, Norwalk, CT, US Ethics & Behavior 1995 Vol 5(3) 237–248, "According to the therapists, about 50% of the patients who claimed to have recovered the memories had found external validation, a percentage that coincides with that obtained in the Feldman–Summers & Pope, 1994 study"

Corroboration of Child Abuse Memories by Leonard Holmes, Ph.D. 4/13/98, "Studies report 50–75% of abuse survivors corroborating the facts of their abuse through an outside source."

<http://mentalhealth.miningco.com/health/mentalhealth/mentalhealth/library/weekly/aa041398.htm>

Debunking 'false memory' myths in sexual abuse cases

By Wendy J. Murphy http://www.smith-lawfirm.com/Murphy_Memory_Article..html

There are now several sources on the Internet for information on the validity of the recovered memory theory and validity of the memories themselves.

These include:

<http://www.jimhopper.com/memory-decision> (the first page (.com) links to other pages of interest also) The Validity of Recovered Memory: Decision of a US District Court Judge Edward F. Harrington, Presentation by Jim Hopper, Ph.D. The legal documentation citation is: 923 Federal Supplement 286 (D. Mass. 1996), United States District Court – District of Massachusetts Ann Shahzade, plaintiff Civil Action No.: V. 92–12139–EFH George Gregory, Defendant.

Some quotes from the decision:

"The factors to be considered when deciding if proffered testimony is valid 'scientific knowledge,' and therefore reliable, are..." (p.3)

"This Court finds that the reliability of the phenomenon of repressed memory has been established and will allow the plaintiff to introduce evidence related to their recovered memories (p.3).

"Dr. van der Kolk testified that repressed memories is not a scientific controversy, but... a political and forensic one" (p.5).

"Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM–IV, 1994)...also recognizes the concept of repressed memories" (p.7).
in considering the admissibility of repressed memory evidence, the

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court must rule on the validity of the theory itself... for the law to reject a diagnostic category generally accepted by those who practice the art and science of psychiatry would be folly. (p.9).

http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Taubman_Center/Recovmem/Archive.html

This URL has:

Memory, Abuse, and Science: Questioning Claims about the False Memory Syndrome Epidemic An audiotape of this talk (audiotape No. APA9S-245) may be ordered from Sound Images, Aurora, CO; telephone: 303-649-1811). An adapted version was published in American Psychologist, September 1996, vol. 51, no. 9, pages 957-974

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According to the therapists, about 50% of the patients who claimed to have recovered the memories had found external validation, a percentage that coincides with that obtained in the Feldman-Summers & Pope, 1994 study

From Dr. Jim Freisen's new book The Truth About False Memory

Syndrome, The number of studies which have subjected false memory syndrome to scientific inquiry is zero. There is nothing scientific about it. There is nothing which defines it. There is no list of symptoms which describes it, nor is there anything which helps us distinguish it from other syndromes. No studies. No such thing. That's that. (Pg. 16)

Shepherd's House, 7136 Haskell St., #210, Van Nuys, CA 91406.
(Information from C.A.R.E. V1, I3, P O 4072, Kokomo, IN 46904)

False Memory Syndrome : A False Construct by Juliette Cutler Page at

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has information about recovered memory and information about several FMSF members or former members not commonly known.

<http://web.archive.org/web/20030608221633/http://www.feminista.com/v1n9/false-memory.html>

Abuse, Memory, Science, Therapy, Ethics, Malpractice KENNETH S. POPE, PH.D. ABOUT THIS SITE – This site provides free access to peer-reviewed research articles, abstracts, APA list utilities, guides, announcements, & other resources.

<http://web.archive.org/web/20010803163457/http://www.idealists.com/memories>

Ground Lost: The False Memory/Recovered Memory Therapy Debate, by Alan Schefflin, *Psychiatric Times* 11/99, Vol. XVI Issue 11,

The appearance in the DSM-IV indicates that the concept of repressed memory is generally accepted in the relevant scientific community.

This satisfies courts following the *Frye v United States*, 293 F.1013 (1923) or *Daubert v Merrell Dow Pharmaceutical*, 113 S. Ct. 2786 (1993) rules regarding the admissibility of scientific testimony into evidence in court.

And Although the science is limited on this issue, the only three relevant studies conclude that repressed memories are no more and no less accurate than continuous memories (Dalenberg, 1996; Widom and Morris, 1997; Williams, 1995). Thus, courts and therapists should consider repressed memories no differently than they consider ordinary memories. At <http://www.psychiatristimes.com/p991137.html>