God and the Victim
Jennifer Erin Beste

How does severe interpersonal harm affect our freedom and the ways in which we relate to ourselves, others, and God? God and the Victim addresses the challenges that trauma and feminist theory pose to cherished theological convictions about human freedom and divine grace. Overall, the Christian tradition has held that a person's response to God's grace is not entirely vulnerable to earthly contingencies: interpersonal harm, however severe, cannot separate one from the grace of God and from the power to love others. Does this longstanding belief remain credible, however, in light of social scientific research on the insidious effects of interpersonal violence? Should we not consider more carefully the possibility that individuals can harm one another to such an extent that the other's capacity to respond to God's grace is severely diminished, if not altogether destroyed?

Drawing on insights present in feminist and trauma theory, this book articulates a revised Rahnerian theology of freedom and grace responsive to trauma survivors in need of healing. Such a revised theology of freedom and grace is marked most distinctively by two claims: (1) human freedom to respond to God's grace can possibly be destroyed by severe interpersonal harm, and (2) divine grace is mediated at least in part through loving interpersonal relations. This book argues that survivors' experiences of both interpersonal harm and support offer crucial insights that shed light on God's grace and human freedom. Ultimately, such insights promise profound ethical implications, altering our perceptions of the obligations we have toward one another.

Performing Pain
Maria Cizmic
Performing Pain seeks to explore music’s relationships to trauma and grief by focusing upon the late 20th century in Eastern Europe. The 1970s and 80s witnessed a cultural preoccupation with the meanings of historical suffering, particularly surrounding the Second World War and the Stalinist era. Journalists, historians, writers, artists, and filmmakers repeatedly explored themes related to pain and memory, truth and history, morality and spirituality both during glasnost and the years prior. Performing Pain considers how works by composers Alfred Schnittke, Galina Ustvolskaya, Arvo Pärt, and Henryk Górecki musically engage contemporary concerns regarding history and suffering through composition, performance, and reception. Drawing upon theories from psychology, sociology, literary and cultural studies, this book offers a set of hermeneutic essays that demonstrate the ways in which people employ music in order to make sense of historical traumas and losses. Seemingly postmodern compositional choices—such as quotation, fragmentation, and stasis—provide musical analogies to psychological and emotional responses to trauma and grief. The physical realities of embodied performance focus attention on the ethics of pain and representation while these works’ inclusion as film music interprets contemporary debates regarding memory and trauma.

Helping Children of Rural, Methamphetamine-Involved Families
Wendy Haight, Teresa Ostler, James Black, and Linda Kingery

In the late 20th and early 21st century United States, the production and misuse of methamphetamine was a growing and urgent public health, criminal justice, and child welfare problem affecting whole families and communities, particularly in rural areas. Yet, child welfare professionals, social workers, educators, and others working within rural areas had little systematic, descriptive data on which to build effective interventions for the growing numbers of children affected by methamphetamine misuse. This book describes a program of mixed methods research combining strategies from developmental and child clinical psychology, psychiatry, and ethnography to examine the psychological functioning of rural children from methamphetamine-involved families. Participants were twenty-nine children in foster care because of parental methamphetamine misuse, four mothers recovering from methamphetamine addiction, seven foster parents of children from methamphetamine-involved families, and twenty-eight
knowledgeable rural professionals (child welfare and law enforcement professionals, substance abuse and mental health providers and educators). Children whose parents abuse methamphetamine are often exposed to toxic chemicals, violence, criminal behavior, and neglect as well as physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Many school-aged children in foster care because of parental methamphetamine misuse have high levels of trauma symptoms and behavior problems. Descriptive information on the contexts in which children are reared, participant observation, psychological testing, and in-depth interviews with children, in conjunction with existing research were used to develop and pilot test an intervention — Life Story Intervention — for rural children in foster care because of parent substance misuse.

The Nature and Functions of Dreaming
Ernest Hartmann

Published in print: 2010 Published Online: January 2011
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199751778.001.0001
Item type: book

This book presents a theory of dreaming based on many years of psychological and biological research. Critical to this theory is the concept of a Central Image; this book describes his repeated finding that dreams of being swept away by a tidal wave are common among people who have recently experienced a trauma of some kind—a fire, an attack, or a rape. Dreams with these Central Images are not dreams of the traumatic experience itself, but rather the Central Image reveals the emotional response to the experience. Dreams with a potent Central Image, like the tidal wave, vary in intensity along with the severity of the trauma; this pattern was shown quite powerfully in a systematic study of dreams occurring before and after the September 11 attacks in New York. This book's theory comprises three fundamental elements: dreaming is simply one form of mental functioning, occurring along a continuum from focused waking thought to reverie, daydreaming, and fantasy. Second, dreaming is hyperconnective, linking material more fluidly and making connections that aren't made as readily in waking thought. Finally, the connections that are made are not random, but rather are guided by the dreamer's emotions or emotional concerns—and the more powerful the emotion, the more intense the Central Image.

The Psychology of Terrorism Fears
Samuel Justin Sinclair and Daniel Antonius

Published in print: 2012 Published Online: May
Publisher: Oxford University Press 2012
The psychology of terrorism, in its most basic form, is about fear. While academics continue to debate the meaning of terrorism, the end result for many people affected is fear and terror. However, many studying the effects of terrorism have focused more exclusively on discrete psychopathological constructs, most of which are clinically based. Ironically, these paradigms fail to acknowledge the primacy of basic fear in the context of terrorism, as well as how fear affects people in both positive and negative ways—above and beyond whether one meets criteria for a clinical disorder. The purpose of this book is to unpack the complexity of terrorism fears, and to present a new paradigm for understanding the psychology of terrorism. As such, this book will present empirical and theoretical frameworks for understanding fear as a dynamic process that motivates and affects people on a myriad of levels, from the individual to society at large. The book will also highlight the paradox of how fear can negatively affect people and societies and can also be a central force underlying resilience and post-traumatic growth in the context of terrorism and political violence. Finally, this volume will discuss how society has changed as a function of terrorism, and specifically how our own systems for managing terrorism may in fact contribute to fear.

In the Shadow of Death
Elizabeth Beck, Sarah Britto, and Arlene Andrews

Little is known about the effects of having a loved one on death row, and alternative visions of punishment that offer the possibility for forgiveness and recovery are also underrepresented in our system of justice and within the academic literature. In the Shadow of Death uses narrative accounts of individuals affected by the death penalty and crime to explore what it means to have a loved one on death row. The in-depth examination of this under-studied population adds to the literature on loss, trauma, grief, and recovery. In addition to theory on trauma and loss, the book also uses restorative justice theory, which holds offenders accountable while searching for ways to mend communities and lives torn apart by crimes, and explores options for the offenders' family members to be brought into the justice equation and the process of healing and recovery. The book uses myriad interviews with offenders' and victims' families, legal teams, and leaders in the abolition and restorative justice movement, as well as court documents that include in-
depth psychosocial histories of offenders, in order to help ground a vision of justice rooted in the social fabric of community.

**Who Will Go to Torah with Me?**
Lynne Dale Halamish and Doron Hermoni

in *The Weeping Willow: Encounters with Grief*

Published in print: 2007 Published Online: November 2011
Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses issues concerning the security of children following parental death, describing the case of a 12-year-old Jewish boy, Jordan, whose father died in a car accident. It explains that after a family or group trauma it is helpful to go over all of the details together, in order to clarify what happened, normalize grief reactions, and to avoid the isolation of any member.

**Psychological Harms of Oppression**
Ann E. Cudd

in *Analyzing Oppression*

Published in print: 2006 Published Online: May 2006
Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses the direct and indirect psychological harms of oppression. Direct psychological harms are intentionally inflicted by dominant on subordinate groups. These include terror and psychological trauma, humiliation and degradation, objectification, religion, ideology, and cultural domination. Indirect psychological harms occur when the beliefs and values of the privileged or oppressor groups are subconsciously accepted by the subordinate and assimilated into their self-concept or value/belief scheme. Indirect forces thus work through the psychology of the oppressed to mold them and co-opt them to result in choices and decisions that harm the oppressed while benefiting the privileged. These include shame and low self-esteem, false consciousness, and deformed desire.
The Tree
Lynne Dale Halamish and Doron Hermoni
in The Weeping Willow: Encounters with Grief

Published in print: 2007 Published Online: November 2011
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DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195325379.003.0005
Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses the experience of a South American native, Sarah, in growing and living a normal life after trauma. It describes how Sarah handled the death of relatives who died when she was living abroad in another country, explaining that when there is no opportunity for separation before a death, it is possible to effect a separation after the death, for example, through a letter.

Deciding to Live
Lynne Dale Halamish and Doron Hermoni
in The Weeping Willow: Encounters with Grief

Published in print: 2007 Published Online: November 2011
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Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses the importance of conscious thought in making important decisions in relation to the death of the relative, describing the case of 28-year Michael, who suddenly died of a heart attack and whose mother was hospitalized just hours after his death. The chapter explains that following trauma it is frequently necessary for the traumatized individual to make a clear decision to live, and suggests that when the traumatized person's eyes travel, do not speak; but when the eyes return, wait for four to five seconds before speaking.

Justice, Politics, and Memory in the Spanish Transition
Paloma Aguilar
in The Politics of Memory and Democratization

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Item type: chapter

In all processes of political change the emerging regime must face the difficult task of deciding what to do with the legacies of the former dictatorship, which people were working for the previous civil and
military administration preserve, and whether or not to put on trial those responsible for having violated human rights under the previous regime. This chapter analyses what was done, and what was deliberately put aside in the Spanish case. The Spanish transition to democracy has been praised as mainly exemplary, and as demonstrating success in the stabilization of the new democratic regime. However, the final positive result should not obscure the fact that, because of the correlation of forces of the transitional period, and also because of the traumatic collective memory of the Spanish civil war, the victims of the Francoist repression were not properly rehabilitated and the dictatorship was not condemned in the Spanish parliament until 2002. In fact, a very broad Amnesty Law was passed in 1977 that not only allowed all ETA prisoners to get out of jail, but also impeded the judicial revision of the dictatorial past. None of these limitations have impeded the consolidation of democracy in Spain, but some important sectors of society feel that justice has not been done, which explains the very recent political, social and even cultural initiatives to face the authoritarian past.

Personal Experiences
Phil Hankins
in Palliative Care in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis: From diagnosis to bereavement, 2nd Edn

This chapter relates the personal experience of Phil Hankins who was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). In this chapter, he talks about how he faces the dilemma and problems associated with ALS and how the disease has had a great impact on his life. Herein, he narrates how he performs his daily tasks with the help of his work colleagues, efficient heath care givers, and his supportive family. Aside from recounting the physical losses he has had to deal with, Hankins recounts the emotional traumas he has had to face such as being withdrawn from his family, his diminished role in the family, the strains he has noticed in relationships, his fear of isolation, and his diminished confidence.

Destroying Sanctuary
Sandra L. Bloom and Brian Farragher

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This book describes what happens to human service delivery programs under the impact of unrelenting stress and multiple losses. Never perfect places of safety in the first place, many social services of every size, shape, and variety are collapsing under over thirty years of system fragmentation even while public costs have escalated dramatically. The result is that important places of refuge–of sanctuary–for the children, adults, and families who have been exposed to the greatest amount of adversity and trauma, are struggling to provide even the most minimally adequate services. We believe that at this point, our social service network is functioning as a trauma-organized system still largely unaware of the multiple ways in which adaptation to chronic stress has created a state of dysfunction that in many cases virtually prohibits the recovery of the individual clients who are the source of the underlying and original organizational missions, while damaging many of the people who work within it. Just as the encroachment of trauma into the life of an individual client is an insidious process that turns the past into a nightmare, the present into a repetitive cycle of re-enactment, and the future into a terminal illness, the impact of chronic strain on an organization is insidious. As seemingly logical reactions to difficult situations pile upon each other, no one is able to truly perceive the fundamentally skewed and post-traumatic basic assumptions upon which that logic is built. As an earthquake can cause the foundations of a building to become unstable, even while the building still stands, apparently intact, so too does chronic repetitive stress or sudden traumatic stress destabilize the cognitive and affective foundations of shared meaning that is necessary for a group to function and stay whole. The goal of this book is a practical one: to provide the beginnings of a coherent framework for organizational staff and leaders to more effectively provide trauma-informed care for their clients by becoming trauma-sensitive themselves. This means becoming sensitive to the ways in which all human beings and human systems are impacted by individual and collective exposure to overwhelming stress.

Traumatic Imprints
Noah Tsika

Forced to contend with unprecedented levels of psychological trauma during World War II, the United States military began sponsoring a series of nontheatrical films designed to educate and even rehabilitate soldiers
and civilians alike. Traumatic Imprints examines wartime and postwar debates about, aspirations for, and uses of cinema as a vehicle for studying, publicizing, and even “working through” war trauma.

**Stress, Trauma, and Children's Memory Development**

Mark L. Howe, Gail S. Goodman, and Dante Cicchetti (eds)

Published in print: 2008 Published Online: May 2008

Item type: book

Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195308457.001.0001

Few questions in psychology have generated as much debate as those concerning the impact of childhood trauma on memory. A lack of scientific research to constrain theory has helped fuel arguments about whether childhood trauma leads to deficits that result in conditions, such as false memory or lost memory, and whether neurohormonal changes that are correlated with childhood trauma can be associated with changes in memory. Scientists have also struggled with more theoretical concerns, such as how to conceptualize and measure distress and other negative emotions in terms of, for example, discrete emotions, physiological response, and observer ratings. To answer these questions, this book brings together neurobiological, cognitive, clinical, and legal research on stress and memory development. This research examines the effects of early stressful and traumatic experiences on the development of memory in childhood, and elucidates how early trauma is related to other measures of cognitive and clinical functioning in childhood. It also goes beyond childhood to explore the long-term impact of stressful and traumatic experiences on the entire course of “normal” memory development, and determine the longevity of trauma memories that are formed early in life.

**Turning from Hatred to Community Friendship**

Robert D. Enright, Jeanette Knutson Enright, and Anthony C. Holter

in *Strategies of Peace*

Published in print: 2010 Published Online: May 2010

Item type: chapter

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Forgiveness education should have a role in long-term strategies for peacebuilding. The authors argue that forgiveness has the power to break cycles of sectarian violence and makes possible what Aristotle termed “civic friendship.” In Belfast, Northern Ireland, the psychological effects of anger among children are high enough to warrant clinical
intervention. The authors find that forgiveness education corresponds to decreases in anger, depression, and anxiety in children. They offer examples of effective forgiveness education curricula for teachers.

Challenges of Interpersonal Harm for a Theology of Freedom and Grace
Jennifer Erin Beste

This chapter introduces theological questions about the extent to which interpersonal harm can damage an individual's freedom to respond to God’s grace and relate with love to oneself, others, and God. It provides an overview of the field of trauma studies, an explanation of posttraumatic stress disorder, and a rationale for focusing on child sexual abuse in the book. Next, this chapter examines historical and contemporary theological perspectives about the impact of interpersonal harm on a person's selfhood, freedom, relationality, and ability to receive and respond to God's grace. The chapter argues that trauma theory challenges cherished Christian beliefs regarding the human self, freedom, and God's grace, and this in turn suggests the need for a revised theology of God's grace and human freedom that resonates with trauma survivors’ experiences and facilitates healing. The purpose of the book is to offer such a theology and explore its resulting ethical implications.

The Vulnerable Self and Loss of Agency
Jennifer Erin Beste

This chapter examines the impact of severe trauma on persons' selfhood, capacity for relationality, and freedom for self-determination. To address the complex effects of trauma on the sense of self and capacity for freedom, this book focuses on women survivors who experienced severe incestuous trauma as young girls. It examines incest survivors’ posttraumatic stress systems, focusing in particular on how their
behavior attempts to reenact the trauma severely compromises their sense of self and their agency. Incestuous abuse also damages survivors' ability to develop trusting, intimate relationships with others and God. Many incest victims frequently report, in comparison to nonabused women, experiencing more anger, shame, and feelings of distance toward God. While more research is needed, it is reasonable to take seriously the possibility that severe trauma such as incestuous abuse can negatively impede and perhaps destroy a person's ability to relate to God and neighbor with faith, trust, and love.

The Fragmented Self and Constrained Agency
Jennifer Erin Beste

This chapter brings into the conversation between trauma theory and theology a third conversation partner: feminist theory. It examines certain feminist conceptions of self and agency that differ from Rahner's theological anthropology. Since feminist theory has been concerned with ways that varied forms of oppression (a type of interpersonal harm) and violence against women impact women's sense of self and agency, it is important to explore whether feminists shed any light on the dynamics of traumatization and recovery from traumatic violence. Paying particular attention to Judith Butler's and Diana Meyers's accounts of the self and agency, this chapter identifies certain insights from feminist theory that resonate with the findings of trauma research.

Response to the Challenge
Jennifer Erin Beste

This chapter argues that the experiences of severely traumatized persons and the insights of feminist theory demonstrate Rahner's failure to acknowledge adequately the effects of relationality and embodiment for one's capacity to realize sufficient freedom to effect a fundamental option. Rahner's general construal of the relation between God's grace...
and human freedom is also insufficient when attempting to make sense of the workings of God's grace in the lives of trauma survivors. However, by incorporating insights of feminists and trauma theory and drawing on other aspects of Rahner's theology, it is possible to construct a more adequate Rahnerian theology of freedom and grace. A revised account must (1) acknowledge to a greater degree the power of sin against one's neighbor to disable that neighbor's freedom to respond to God's grace, and (2) articulate how God's grace is mediated through loving, interpersonal relations.