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 author investigates the life and songs of Mun Pilgi, a survivor of the “comfort woman” system who lives in Seoul and later in the House of Sharing. Mun Pilgi sang canonical pop songs, which she learned from records and radio as she reached out to participate in a society and a public culture that had ostracized her. She set these songs and their society against her traumatic memories and nightmares. And as she adopted and modified songs, she modified those memories. In her treasured pop ballads, she discovered and sustained an ideal love and the innocence to sustain it; this character which she developed in song exerted a marked influence on the political movement, in which she was an ardent participant.

Grief: A Case Study
Peter Goldie

Published in print: 2012 Published Online: September 2012
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199230730.003.0003
Item type: chapter

In Chapter 3 these ideas are applied to narratives of grief, and, more widely, of narratives of past traumatic experiences. Against the vast majority of contemporary philosophical views about emotion, it is argued that grief (and other emotions) is a kind of process, not a kind of mental state or event. Furthermore, a narrative is the ideal kind of account of the process of grief. It is then discussed how our capacity to narrate our past breaks down after some kinds of traumatic experience. This is considered in relation to the desire for emotional closure. In both fiction and in real life narratives, emotional closure, like narrative closure, is something of an ideal: closure, however much aspired to, is never really reached, and remains illusory.

Resilience and Vulnerability to Trauma
Nicole S. Cooper, Adriana Feder, Steven M. Southwick, and Dennis S. Charney

in Adolescent Psychopathology and the Developing Brain: Integrating Brain and Prevention Science
Published in print: 2007 Published Online: May 2009
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195306255.003.0015
Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses the deleterious effects of traumatic experience and its effects on brain development. It reviews the many interventions
that have evidence of efficacy for promoting resilience to subsequent traumatic events.

**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

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.

**Hearts of Pine**

Joshua D. Pilzer

Published in print: 2012 Published Online: May 2012


Item type: book

In the wake of the system of sexual slavery for the Japanese military during the Asia-Pacific War (1930-45), survivors in South Korea lived under great pressure not to speak about what had happened to them, although rumors of the so-called “comfort women” system circulated throughout society. Many of these women reckoned with their experiences and forged senses of self within the opacity of song, which allowed them to express themselves precisely without explicitly divulging their pasts. In the process, they created identities and social worlds from
available cultural materials. As they sang, each woman became a certain kind of collector, composer, and performer. In the 1990s a movement arose in South Korea to seek redress from the Japanese government and to tend to the survivors in their old age. Suddenly the women found themselves pulled from the margins of society and thrust into the very center of the public cultural spotlight. But the women continued to sing. They sang songs that told the unwritten histories of their lives, that displayed the identities that they had carved out of a lifetime of struggle and hardship, and that helped them forge and maintain relationships with others. And they sang—often in the most public places—about things that remained unspoken. This book, based on eight years of intermittent fieldwork with survivors in South Korea, is an exercise in listening to three women and their songs across the twentieth century and in their present-day lives.

Emotion in Memory and Development
Jodi Quas and Robyn Fivush (eds)

The question of how well children recall and can discuss emotional experiences is one with numerous theoretical and applied implications. Theoretically, the role of emotions generally and emotional distress specifically in children's emerging cognitive abilities has implications for understanding how children attend to and process information, how children react to emotional information, and how that information affects their development and functioning over time. Practically speaking, increasing numbers of children have been involved in legal settings as victims or witnesses to violence, highlighting the need to determine the extent to which children's eyewitness reports of traumatic experiences are accurate and complete. In clinical contexts, the ability to narrate emotional events is emerging as a significant predictor of psychological outcomes. How children learn to describe emotional experiences and the extent to which they can do so coherently thus has important implications for clinical interventions.

Trauma, News, and Narrative
Doug Underwood

in Chronicling Trauma: Journalists and Writers on Violence and Loss
This book investigates the impact of trauma and coverage of violence on journalists, the subjects of their coverage, and their audience—including the possibility that journalists who have suffered early life stress (such as unhappy childhoods and distorted family relationships) may gravitate toward high-risk assignments, such as war reporting. It examines the sources and the consequences of traumatic experience in the lives of 150 journalist–literary figures in American and British history dating from the early 1700s to today—from Daniel Defoe and Jonathan Swift to Charles Dickens and Ernest Hemingway—and the traumatic events in their lives that can be viewed as contributing to their emotional struggles, the vicissitudes of their journalism careers, and their development as artists. It considers the ways that their experiences in journalism may have contributed to these writers' psychological stress and played a role in their mental health history. The book demonstrates how the intersection of journalism and fiction writing offers important insights about trauma's role in literary expression.

Stories of Harm, Stories of Hazard

Doug Underwood

in Chronicling Trauma: Journalists and Writers on Violence and Loss

Published in print: 2011 Published Online: April Publisher: University of Illinois Press
2017
DOI: 10.5406/illinois/9780252036408.003.0002
Item type: chapter

This chapter examines the life stories of journalist–literary figures in the context of childhood history, mental health symptoms, and categories of traumatic experience that today are recognized as “triggers” of psychic conflict. More specifically, it considers the ways that journalists have coped with childhood stress and professional trauma throughout their careers. The chapter first explains the historical limitations of our understanding of trauma's role in the lives of early journalist–literary figures such as Charles Lamb, Walt Whitman, Bret Harte, and William Dean Howells before discussing religion as the early framework for understanding trauma and traumatized emotions. It then explores the link between trauma and the romantic movement, and between trauma and psychological writing, and proceeds with an analysis of psychological themes in the fiction of journalists, such as parental and family loss, abandonment, family breakup, and/or living with psychologically ill and/or alcoholic parents. It also outlines what novel writing could do that journalism did not in terms of conveying the emotional impact of traumatic experience.
Violence and the Cultural Politics of Trauma

Jane Kilby

During the late 1970s and 1980s speaking out about the traumatic reality of incest and rape was a rare and politically groundbreaking act. Today it is a ubiquitous feature of popular culture and its political value uncertain. This book explores the complexity and consequences of this shift in giving first-hand testimony by focusing on debates over recovered memory therapy and false memory syndrome, the spectacle of talkshow disclosures, discourses of innocence and complicity, as well as the aesthetics and effect of shock. In counterpoint to the frequently cynical readings of personal narrative politics, it advances an alternative reading built around the concept of unrepresentability. Key to this intervention is the stress placed by the text on the limits of representing sexually traumatic experiences and how this requires both theoretical and methodological innovation. Based on close readings of survivor narratives and artworks, the book demonstrates the significance of unrepresentability for a feminist understanding of sexual violence and victimisation.

‘After Auschwitz’: Trauma and the Grammar of Ethics

J.M. Bernstein

This chapter depicts Lyotard and Levinas's theories to connect or disconnect traumatic experience with those of ethical experience. It utilizes Lyotard's take on Emmanuel Levinas's thoughts, an examination of Lyotard's overview of The Differend, and an analysis of Lyotard's Heidegger and the 'Jews' to attain the answer that differentiates trauma and ethics to define the Holocaust.
This chapter examines the pressures of the journalists' job and the traumatic experiences of women, minorities, and journalist–literary figures from historically marginalized groups as well as those who have investigated social problems and/or used journalistic literature to advance social reform causes. More specifically, it considers the role that women's rights, civil rights, and sensationalism have played to push social justice issues. After discussing how journalism, and particularly novel writing, became a pathway for minority writers to produce protest literature, the chapter looks at the emergence of naturalism and sensationalism as tools for journalist–literary figures to cope with traumatic life experiences. It also explores the fictionalization of the conditions of joblessness and economic misery during the Great Depression and concludes with an analysis of how traumatic emotions connected to a journalist's job could come out in themes of fiction.

Stealthy Vices
Quassim Cassam

Stealthy vices, such as closed-mindedness, are epistemic vices that are inherently hard to detect because it is in their nature to block their own detection. This chapter defends the view that at least some epistemic vices are stealthy and some are stealthier than others. The stealthiness of stealthy vices is explained on the basis that such vices negate or nullify the epistemic virtues on which active critical reflection on one’s own vices depends. The stealthiness of stealthy vices is the vice epistemological analogue of the Dunning-Kruger effect, but traumatic experiences can sometimes open one’s eyes to one’s own epistemic vices. In such cases one acquires self-knowledge by transformational insight rather than by active critical reflection.
Building better people: policy aspirations and family life
Brid Featherstone, Anna Gupta, Kate Morris, and Sue White

in Protecting Children: A Social Model
Published in print: 2018 Published Online: May 2019
Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses the residual, but strongly legitimised, role for the state in preventing damage to children, which carries high levels of criticism for those parents seen as failing to optimise their child's developmental potential. The idea that childhood experiences are important and can be formative clearly has a common-sense truth to it and obviously, traumatic experiences in childhood will have lasting impacts. However, a vocabulary has emerged in which notions of toxic parenting and the quest for optimum developmental flourishing create new mandates for the state to act. The chapter then argues that these are necessary to explain the sharp rises in national rates of child removal, particularly the permanent removal of very small children, documented over the last decade. They also contribute to service fragmentation by privileging intervention in the early years in the form of ‘evidence-based’ parenting programmes.

. Like a Movie
Marc Redfield

in The Rhetoric of Terror: Reflections on 9/11 and the War on Terror
Published in print: 2009 Published Online: September 2011
Item type: chapter

The September 11 bombing is really a traumatic experience whether physically or psychologically to those who suffered it too close in the Ground Zero, but for those who did not a spectacle is seen “like a movie.” On the one hand, the simile “like a movie” emerges out of a specific historical, cultural, economic, and technological context in which a certain kind of high-tech, highly capitalized, globally distributed cinematic product becomes associated with the technical production of scenes of spectacular destruction which is clear that this simile functions above all to communicate the speaker's sense of the seeming unreality of the event being described. And to describe the September 11 bombing, it is just a simple unfolding television program which was turned to a particular cinematic genre, which is the big-budget disaster movie.
The Amish Shootings
Adrian Parr

in Deleuze and Memorial Culture: Desire, Singular Memory and the Politics of Trauma

Published in print: 2008 Published Online: March 2012
Publisher: Edinburgh University Press
DOI: 10.3366/edinburgh/9780748627547.003.0006
Item type: chapter

This chapter attempts to extract the sense of trauma by engaging the same synthesis in its legitimate form in the case of the Amish shootings in Pennsylvania. It suggests that the shootings of ten Amish schoolgirls and the community's response to this event provide us with an important shift in focus away from either being an unrepresentable trauma figured as lack (void of content), or an uncompromising repetition of memory that refuses to forget a traumatic experience. The chapter argues that the Amish response to the incident extracted the sense of trauma that emerges between appearances and copies, memory and history, all the while encouraging us to pose our question of traumatic memory in slightly different terms.

Chronicling Trauma
Doug Underwood

Published in print: 2011 Published Online: April 2017
Publisher: University of Illinois Press
DOI: 10.5406/illinois/9780252036408.001.0001
Item type: book

To attract readers, journalists have long trafficked in the causes of trauma—crime, violence, warfare—as well as psychological profiling of deviance and aberrational personalities. Novelists, in turn, have explored these same subjects in developing their characters and by borrowing from their own traumatic life stories to shape the themes and psychological terrain of their fiction. This book offers a conceptual and historical framework for comprehending the impact of trauma and violence in the careers and the writings of important journalist–literary figures in the United States and British Isles from the early 1700s to today. Grounded in the latest research in the fields of trauma studies, literary biography, and the history of journalism, the book draws upon the lively accounts of popular writers such as Charles Dickens, Ernest Hemingway, Dorothy Parker, Graham Greene, and Truman Capote, exploring the role that trauma has played in shaping their literary works. The book notes that the influence of traumatic experience upon journalistic literature is being reshaped by a number of factors, including
news media trends, the advance of the Internet, the changing nature of the journalism profession, the proliferation of psychoactive drugs, and journalists' greater self-awareness of the impact of trauma in their work. The book discusses more than a hundred writers whose works have won them fame, even at the price of their health, their families, and their lives.

Beyond Realism: Herta Müller's Poetics
Katrin Kohl

Müller has published numerous essays based on speeches, lectures, and articles in which she reflects on her writing and the role of literature. Typically these texts do not, however, confine themselves to theoretical discussion of aesthetic concerns. Rather, they interweave reflection on literature with childhood memories, accounts of personal responses to the violently repressive regime under Ceauşescu, and comment on other writers. Rather than seeking to separate literary theory from life-writing in these texts, the chapter will situate the interaction between fiction and reality in the Aristotelian tradition. It will suggest that she gives the quotidian and the concrete object a vital place in her work in order to counteract the pernicious encroachment of political ideologies on the inner spaces of the individual. The motivation engendered by traumatic experience is seen to be no less important for an understanding of her poetics than her passion for language.

Reconstructing Everyday Life in the Atomic Age
Richard Hornsey

This chapter examines the logics around space, time, movement, and repetition that highlighted the reconstruction vision of Britain’s postwar metropolis. It analyzes the figure of the solitary atom, which functions as a map and model for explaining how certain structures of center, periphery, trajectory, and recurrence secured the stability of the basic
material world. In exploring the atom and its informative centrality, an ideological device that is coherent with the established projections of London’s postwar planners is revealed. The chapter concludes with an analysis of basic spatial logics that functions as a mechanism for dealing with the traumatic experience of life under bombardment.

Enigma of the Sphinx
Elizabeth Harlan
in George Sand

Published in print: 2004 Published Online: October 2013
DOI: 10.12987/yale/9780300104172.003.0007
Item type: chapter

This chapter describes the two crucial revelations concerning Sophie Dupin that were among the most traumatic experiences of Aurore's young life. In each incident, Aurore is confronted with devastating disclosures about her mother's past. The first scene of confrontation took place when Aurore is thirteen years old. She had been living with her grandmother Madame Dupin in relative isolation at Nohant and was filled with pain and longing for her absent mother. Unable to concentrate on her lessons, she was reprimanded and told by her grandmother that her mother had lived a life of prostitution. Another revelation, which Aurore learned later, was regarding her relationship with Maurice Dupin. Among whatever else Madame Dupin revealed, it is conceivable she saw fit to cross the ts and dot the is for her young and impressionable granddaughter by telling her that her mother was connected with a man who had been rumored to be her true father—that her relationship with Maurice was a well-constructed and carefully maintained lie.