Understanding Autobiographical Memory

The field of autobiographical memory has made dramatic advances since the first collection of papers in the area was published in 1986. Now, over 25 years on, this book reviews and integrates the many theories, perspectives, and approaches that have evolved over the last decades. A truly eminent collection of editors and contributors appraise the basic neural systems of autobiographical memory; its underlying cognitive structures and retrieval processes; how it develops in infancy and childhood, and then breaks down in aging; its social and cultural aspects; and its relation to personality and the self.

Autobiographical memory has demonstrated a strong ability to establish clear empirical generalizations, and has shown its practical relevance by deepening our understanding of several clinical disorders – as well as the induction of false memories in the legal system. It has also become an important topic for brain studies, and helped to enlarge our general understanding of the brain.

Dorthe Berntsen is a Professor in the Department of Psychology and Behavioural Sciences at Aarhus University, where she was awarded a Center of Excellence grant from the Danish National Research Foundation to establish the Center on Autobiographical Memory Research. She is the author of Involuntary Autobiographical Memories: An Introduction to the Unbidden Past (Cambridge, 2009).

David C. Rubin is Juanita M. Kreps Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Duke University and is affiliated with the Center on Autobiographical Memory at Aarhus University. He is a leading researcher in the field of autobiographical memory and the editor of Remembering Our Past: Studies in Autobiographical Memory (Cambridge, 1996) and Autobiographical Memory (Cambridge, 1986), among other books.
Understanding
Autobiographical Memory

*Theories and approaches*

*Edited by*
Dorthe Berntsen
and
David C. Rubin
In memory of Ulric Neisser
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Contributors

ALAN BADDELEY,
University of York, UK

PATRICIA J. BAUER,
Emory University, USA

DORTHE BERNTSEN,
Aarhus University, Denmark

CARISSA L. BROADBRIDGE,
Wayne State University, USA

NORMAN R. BROWN,
University of Alberta, Canada

FREDRICK G. CONRAD,
University of Michigan, USA

MARTIN A. CONWAY,
City University, London, UK

ALEXANDRU CUC,
Nova Southeastern University, USA

ARNAUD D’ARGEMBEAU,
University of Liège, Belgium

MERLIN DONALD,
Queen’s University, Canada

JOSEPH M. FITZGERALD,
Wayne State University, USA

ROBYN FIVUSH,
Emory University, USA
List of contributors

TILMANN HABERMAS,
Frankfurt University, Germany

TIA G. B. HANSEN,
Aalborg University, Denmark

WILLIAM HIRST,
New School for Social Research, USA

LAURA JOBSON,
Medical Research Council Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit,
Cambridge, and University of East Anglia, UK

KIE J. KUWABARA,
University of New Hampshire, USA

PETER J. LEE,
University of Alberta, Canada

MORRIS MOSCOVITCH,
University of Toronto and Rotman Research Institute, Canada

DAVID B. PILLEMER,
University of New Hampshire, USA

DAVID C. RUBIN,
Duke University, USA

PEGGY L. ST. JACQUES,
Harvard University, USA

SARAH A. VANDERVEEN,
University of Calgary, Canada

DANA WOHL,
New School for Social Research, USA
Preface

The chapters included in this book were given as invited addresses at the conference “Theoretical Perspectives on Autobiographical Memory,” which was held in Aarhus, Denmark, June 13–15, 2010. It was the first open-call conference dedicated to the study of autobiographical memories. The conference involved more than 150 participants from more than 15 different countries, testifying to the internal scope of the field. The conference brought together some of the most outstanding researchers on autobiographical memory. Each of them presented their key findings and particular theoretical perspective on the field. The conference marked the opening of the Center on Autobiographical Memory Research (CON AMORE) at Aarhus University funded by the Danish National Research Foundation’s Center of Excellence Program.
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