

# Cambridge Elements

Elements in Child Development

edited by

Marc H. Bornstein

*Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human  
Development, Bethesda*

*Institute for Fiscal Studies, London*

*UNICEF, New York City*

## AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL MEMORY AND NARRATIVE IN CHILDHOOD

Robyn Fivush  
*Emory University*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-009-08731-5 — Autobiographical Memory and Narrative in Childhood  
Robyn Fivush  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India  
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,  
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of  
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009087315](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009087315)

DOI: 10.1017/9781009086325

© Robyn Fivush 2022

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions  
of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take  
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2022

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

ISBN 978-1-009-08731-5 Paperback  
ISSN 2632-9948 (online)  
ISSN 2632-993X (print)

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence  
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this  
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will  
remain, accurate or appropriate.

# Autobiographical Memory and Narrative in Childhood

Elements in Child Development

DOI: 10.1017/9781009086325  
First published online: July 2022

---

Robyn Fivush  
*Emory University*

**Author for correspondence:** Robyn Fivush, psyrf@emory.edu

**Abstract:** This Element delineates how the narrative expression of autobiographical memory develops through everyday interactions that frame the forms and functions of autobiographical remembering. Narratives are both outward and inward facing, providing the interface between how we perceive the world and how we perceive ourselves. Thus narratives are the pivot point where self and culture meet. To make this argument, the author brings together literature from multiple perspectives, including cognitive, personality, evolutionary, cultural, and developmental psychology. To fully understand autobiographical memory, it must be understood how it functions in the context of lives lived in complex sociocultural contexts.

**Keywords:** memory, autobiographical memory, narrative, identity, self

© Robyn Fivush 2022

ISBNs: 9781009087315 (PB), 9781009086325 (OC)  
ISSNs: 2632-9948 (online), 2632-993X (print)

## Contents

1 Introduction	1
2 Conceptualizing Memory	3
3 Narratives as Culture	12
4 The Sociocultural Developmental Theory of Autobiographical Memory	22
5 Adolescence, the Life Story, and the Intergenerational Self	41
6 Conclusions and Future Directions	47
References	51