

Lost Memories, False Prophets & BPS Guidelines

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Everyone speaks of the wrongfulness of an evil act, but inexplicably no one is held accountable for the wrongfulness of failure to do good. And thus, fundamental social evils remain unresolved.

Tsunesaburo Makiguchi (1871–1944)

Introduction

Cults, Mind Control & Organisational Psychology



Peoples Temple
Agricultural Project
("Jonestown", Guyana)

Jim Jones - Mass Suicide (1978)
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonestown>



Branch Davidians – Waco Siege (1993)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waco_siege



Tokyo Subway Sarin Attack (1995)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aum_Shinrikyo

Introduction

Personal Statement for Science & Practice Convener Role

In my 25 years as an Occupational Psychologist I always sat comfortably between the Science and Practitioner chairs. Synergising my R&D roles in Occupational Testing consultancies like SHL, Manpower's Career Harmony, Saville Consulting and Cubiks with my academic interests lead me to present more than 70 contributions at conferences around the world. I also co-authored some journal articles and book chapters. I embraced technology at the outset of my career spearheading research into onscreen testing, expert systems and validation methodology. The tools, models and competency frameworks I developed are well regarded in practitioner user, test review and academic settings.

I served on the BPS DOP conference committee and am currently a member of the BPS Committee on Test Standards (CTS).

Based on my practice of Nichiren Buddhism (SGI) I strive to approach every day, every person and every situation with compassion, courage and wisdom. I welcome mindfulness and Positive Psychology approaches that lead towards self-realisation, transformation and healing.

As an I/O Psychologist with a conscience I am concerned about the INDUSTRIAL scale of child abuse and permissive ORGANIZATIONAL structures and processes. I am immersed in Pro Bono activities challenging instances of psychological misdiagnosis in family court settings (see www.forced-adoption.com) and unveiling the chilling truth about extreme abuse (see www.paracelsustrust.co.uk). I publicly shared my concerns about shortcomings in mental health diagnosis at the ABP conference:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOrTRvJO1e0>

As a Science and Practitioner convener I would like to encourage dialogue between academics and practitioners but also between divisions in the BPS – overcoming the 'silo' mentality. I wish to **support the Psychometric Testing centre in its roll out of the Forensic Testing Standards** and would like to establish a **cross-divisional working group on Abuse, Trauma and Dissociation**. Dependability, integrity, performance and potential take on new dimensions given the duplicity displayed by abusers.

Source: Kurz, R, (2016) *'Twice Exceptional' Individuals: Safeguarding against Re-victimisation*. Presentation at the BDA 10th International Dyslexia Conference in Oxford.

<https://psychassessmentblog.wordpress.com/2016/04/12/bda-2016-oxford-symposium-psychological-perspectives-on-the-assessment-of-dyslexia/>



Themes

I Exposing Satanist Ritual Abuse (SRA)

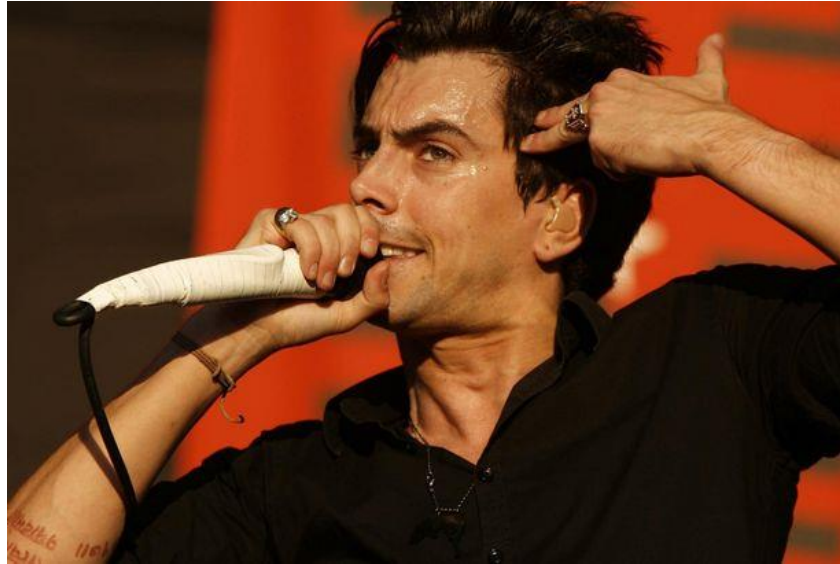
II False Memories Discourse of Disbelief

III British Psychological Society (BPS) Guidelines

IV BPS Publication 'The Psychologist'

V Media Spin

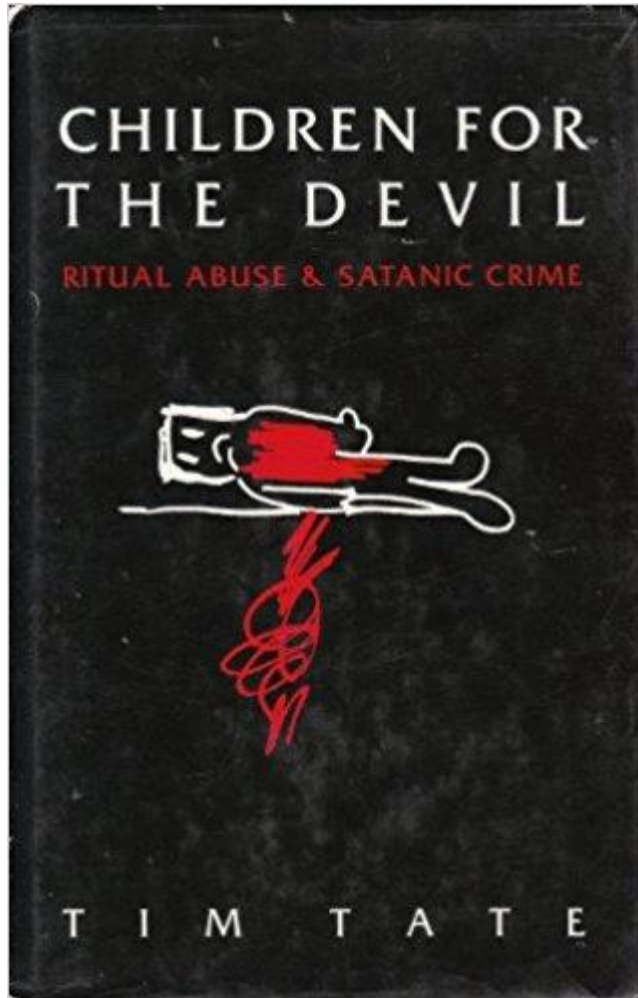
I Exposing Satanist Ritual Abuse (SRA)



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_Watkins_\(Lostprophets\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_Watkins_(Lostprophets))

Ian David Karslake Watkins (born 30 July 1977) is a Welsh singer, musician, and convicted sex offender. He achieved prominence as a founding member, lead vocalist, and lyricist of the rock band Lostprophets. Lostprophets disbanded in 2013 after Watkins was charged with sexual offences in late 2012. In November 2013, he pleaded guilty to 13 charges, including the attempted rape and sexual assault of a child under 13; these offences were committed against the infant children of two women who were also convicted. He was subsequently jailed for 29 years and ordered to serve a further six years on extended licence.

Medieval Practices



Tate, Tim (1991). *Children for the Devil: Ritual Abuse and Satanic Crime*. Methuen Publishing: London.

‘Satanism in eighteenth-century England appears to have been a privileged affair. The cults seem to have attracted the idle young bucks of the still-ascendant aristocracy. Groups with bizarre and threatening names – ‘The Sons of Midnight’, ‘The Banditti’ and ‘The Blasters’ – haunted the fashionable parts of London attempting to emulate the debauched evil of French satanic rituals.

Most infamous of all the groups were the ‘Hell-Fire Clubs’. Mainland Britain boasted at least three in London and three more in Scotland, and there was a notably active branch in Ireland. Sir Francis Dashwood managed to raise his subdivision of the loose federation to a peak of orgiastic Satanism.

Dashwood, by now Chancellor of the Exchequer, set about enticing other louche aristocrats into the fraternity with the lure of enormous quantities of alcohol, drugs and free sex. The Earl of Sandwich, the poet Charles Churchill (son of the Archbishop of Canterbury) and, probably, the Earl of Bute – Prime Minister for much of the period – were enthusiastic celebrants at the orgiastic rituals. Unsurprisingly, the sex was not limited either to heterosexual intercourse or to adult participants.

Internal dissent within the cult, coupled with a final repentance by Dashwood, ended the rituals in the 1770s. That it survived for more than half a century was perhaps due to the presence at the celebration of senior figures within the government and House of Lords who succeeded in concealing the excesses of the ceremonies. Again, curiously, there is a common allegation contained in the disclosures of both adult and child survivors today that senior politicians are sometimes involved.

The history of satanic worship from medieval times to the dawn of the twentieth century is inextricably linked with the abuse and sacrifice of children.’

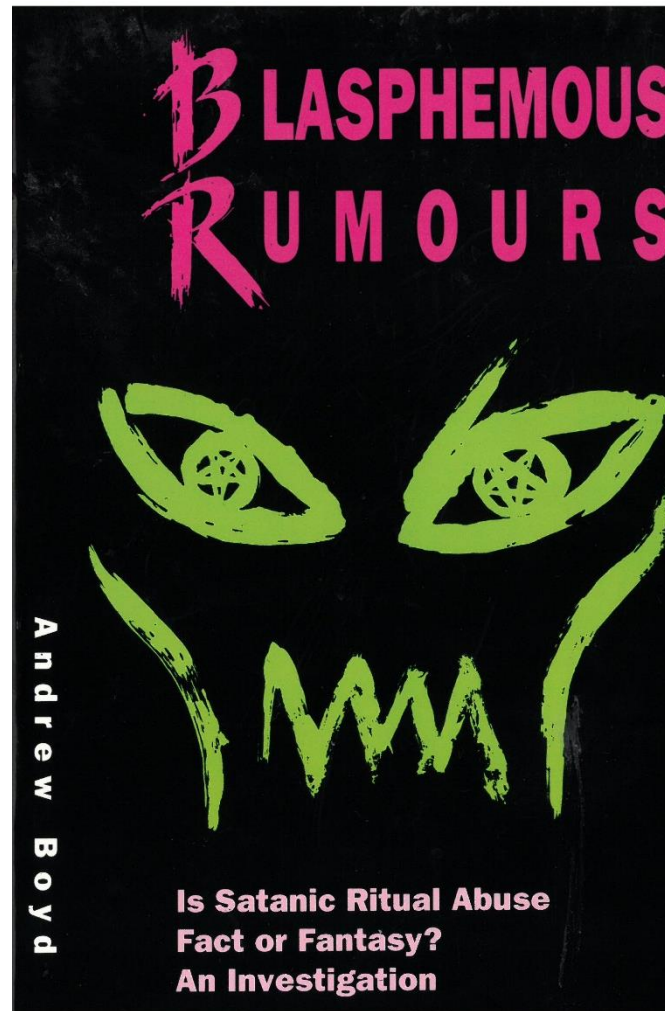
History & Ideology

Child psychiatrist, Dr. Kirk Weir, referring to an ancient description of a girl being sexually abused by her parents in Pendle in Lancashire:

"The curious thing is that the description that that girl made 400 years ago of ritual sexual abuse is very similar to the kinds of descriptions that were being made in Nottingham 400 years later."

Informal survey of people handling ritual abuse cases identified "well in excess of 900 victims".

Several accounts of Human Sacrifice Ritual Murder.



Boyd, Andrew (1991). *Blasphemous Rumours: Is Satanic Ritual Abuse Fact or Fantasy? - An Investigation*. Fount paperbacks: London.

"But there is also a unique cultural dimension to satanic crime. The perpetrators want to change society. Whereas the paedophile is interested only in satisfying his lusts, and otherwise wishes the world to continue as it is, the satanist wants to undermine the institutions and morality of society. In a democracy, they are entitled to pursue such goals, so long as they have the guts to openly declare their objectives; but they are cowards who lurk in dark corners, determined to engineer their objectives secretly."

Core, Dianne (1991). *Chasing Satan: Investigation into Satanic Crimes Against Children*. Gunter Books.

Intergenerational Abuse



Prof Jean La Fontaine is an Anthropologist trained in Cambridge who taught at the LSE where she is Professor Emeritus. She has written extensively on ritual, gender and kinship, witchcraft and satanism, child abuse and incest. She made front-page headlines in mid-1994, when she found herself in the centre of a public furore over her research into child sexual abuse 'The Extent and Nature of Organised and Ritual Abuse', commissioned by the Department of Health, was widely read as denying the existence of satanic abuse.

<http://elearning.lse.ac.uk/dart/interviews/lafontaine.html>

<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/94959.article> 28/08/1995

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2000/feb/10/davidbrindle#> 2000

Please ignore the Wikipedia entry under my name for the time being. I find it extremely useful for many subjects but for some, especially contentious areas that involve forensic issues, as fast as colleagues try to correct and add material it is damaged by other editors who are not following Wikipedia guidelines, e.g. they rely on unchecked newspaper articles and unvalidated or old and biased quotes. It is therefore of interest that whilst my disability work gets a small mention, most space is given to sceptical or downright attacks on the existence of ritual abuse and especially abuse by Satanist pedophiles.

Dr Valerie Sinason is a British poet, writer, psychoanalyst and psychotherapist who is known for promoting the idea that people with a developmental disability can benefit from psychoanalysis and that satanic ritual abuse is widely practiced in the UK. In 1994, Sinason edited a collection of essays entitled *Treating Survivors of Satanist Abuse* that claimed satanic ritual abuse existed in the United Kingdom and that she had treated victims

<http://valeriesinason.co.uk/allpublications.html>

<http://clinicds.co.uk/>

Relevant Literature

HEALING THE UNIMAGINABLE

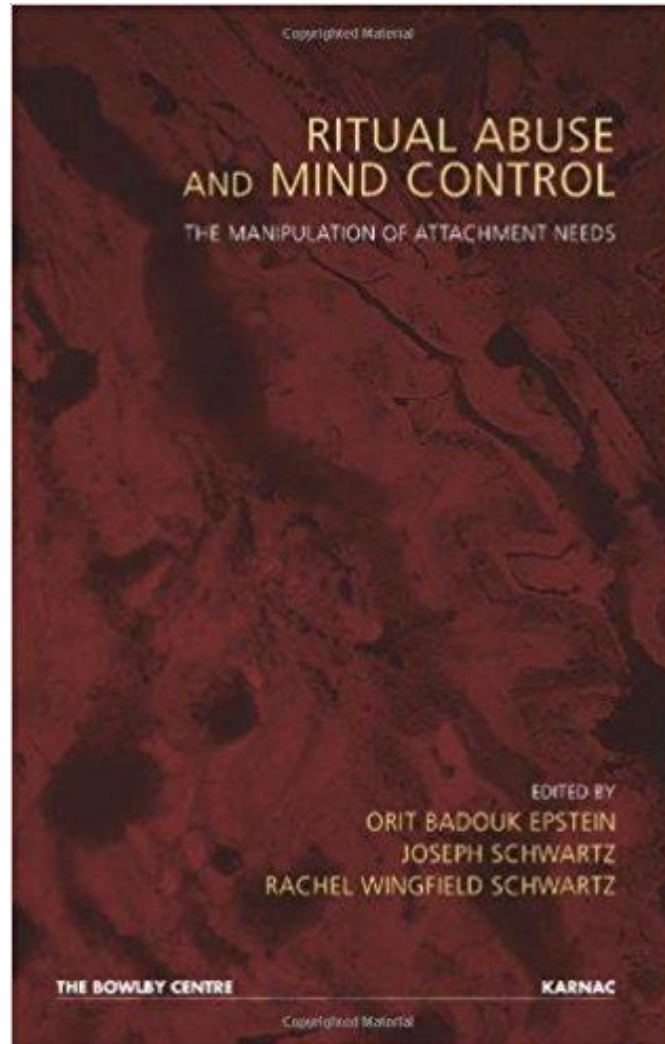
Treating Ritual Abuse and Mind Control



ALISON MILLER

KARNAC

Miller, Alison (2012). *Healing the Unimaginable: Treating Ritual Abuse and Mind Control*. Karnac: London.



Epstein, O. B., Schwartz, J. & Schwartz, R. W. (2011). *Ritual abuse and mind control*. Karnac: London.

Male Survivor Account:

'Sobbing, Bruce told me about his hellish Christmas, memories around the sacrifice of his little baby brother and how they threatened that they would kill his younger sibling if he would not slash the baby's throat.' (p. 161)

Female Survivor Account:

'These were special shows and I remember one of many shows that I was involved with...I had been primed – I was probably eight at the time – to have sex with a boy who was around the same age as me, who was absolutely petrified.' (p. 145).

Source: Kurz (2015) MCA Presentation - Critical Reflections on the Role of Mental Health Professionals.

Karriker, W., Becker, T., Overkamp, B., & Rutz, C. (2015). *Findings from the 2007 Extreme Abuse Survey (EAS) Series.*

End Ritual Abuse

The Website of Ellen P. Lacter, Ph.D.

» Home » About » Books » Trauma Resources » Contact

Three Extreme Abuse Surveys:

EAS: Adult Survivors N=1114 respondents

EAS-P: Professionals N=223 respondents

EAS-C: Caregivers of child victims of extreme abuse
N=85 respondents

<http://endritualabuse.org/2016/07/findings-from-the-2007-extreme-abuse-survey-eas-series/>

Findings from the 2007 Extreme Abuse Survey (EAS) Series

1 JULY 2016 - BY ELLEN P. LACTER, PH.D.

Announcement

I am pleased to announce an important new addition to my website—a lengthy (309 pages) document that provides powerful validation for survivors of extreme abuse.

To read, click here: [FINDINGS from the 2007 EXTREME ABUSE SURVEY \(EAS\) SERIES](#), by Wanda Karriker, Ph.D., Thorsten Becker, Carol Rutz, and Bettina Overkamp, Ph.D.

What is Ritual Abuse?

- » Data on Survivors of Ritual Abuse, Mind Control, and Healing Methods
- » Kinds of Torture Endured in Ritual Abuse and Trauma-Based Mind Control
- » Relationships Between Mind Control Programming and Ritual Abuse
- » Mind Control: Simple to Complex
- » Overview of the Differences Between Satanism and Witchcraft

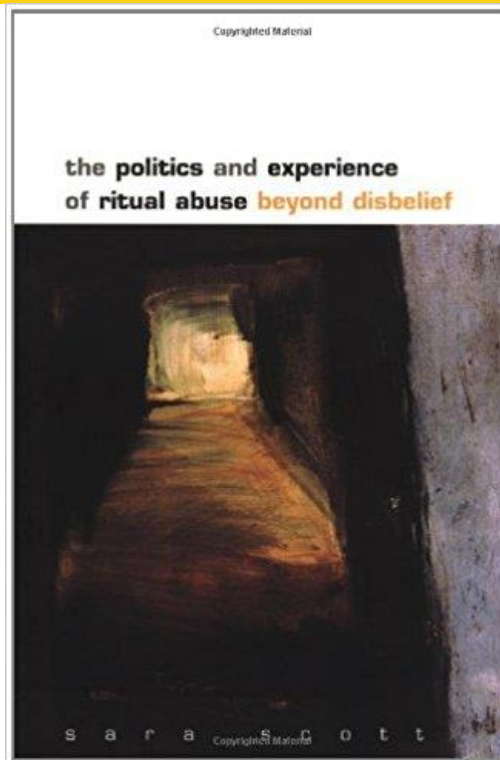
www.traumabasedmindcontrol.com

Memories – EAS, 2007 (Table 17 – Survivors)

Slide adapted from: Sadegh, A. (2017). <https://spidercatweb.blog/2017/05/03/fsf/>

86%	71%	Incest 70%				Sleep deprivation 69%	Bondage 67%	Use of blood in abuse 63%
Receiving physical abuse from perpetrators	Forced drugging	53%		Forced to participate in animal mutilations/killings 53%	53%		Pornography (child) 52%	
79%	62%	Being caged	51%		50%		50%	
Sexual abuse by multiple perpetrators	Witnessing animal mutilations/killings	52%		Near drowning experience by perpetrators	Non-lethal weapons abuse		Electroshock	
79%	61%	Bestiality	50%		45%		41%	
Other abuse(s)	Sensory deprivation	Forced to murder (or made think I had murdered) a baby		45%		44%	41%	
	55%	Spinning		Buried alive	Forced cannibalism	Electronic harassment		
77%	Forced to abuse other victims	48%		38%		36%		
	55%	Starvation	"Marriage" to Satan		Pornography (adult)	Brain stimulation	Forced abortion	
Being threatened with death if survivor ever talked about the abuse	Use of feces in abuse	Forced participation in murder by perpetrators 46%		38%		26%	25%	
72%	54%	46%		38%		Survivor's own child murdered by his/her perpetrator(s)		
		Prostitution (child)	Aversive hypnosis 37%		Psychic driving 26%	Straight-jacketed 25%	Injection of painful eyedrops	
Witnessing physical abuse by perpetrators on other victims	Witnessing murder by perpetrators	46%		26%		Brain implants		
		Prostitution (child)		Dislocation of limbs 26%		Experiments		
		46%		26%		Eugenics experiments		
		46%		26%		UFO abduction		
		46%		26%		Experiment...		

II False Memories Discourse of Disbelief



The invention of a False Memory Syndrome (FMS) forms a central strand within the wider discourse of disbelief pertaining to the sexual abuse of children in Western society.¹ It is fast becoming a free-floating explanation, bobbing up in 'ordinary' conversation, providing a mechanism by which accusations of child sexual abuse can be transformed into errors and overreactions. FMS is a dangerous idea to be on the loose; I would therefore like to anchor it in the circumstances of its production. I want to briefly indicate how some of the strategies employed in the FMS case work, but my main object is to offer some explanation of the lack of an effective feminist response defending 'the truth' of child abuse.

Sociologist Dr Sara Scott

<http://www.socresonline.org.uk/3/3/1.html>

3.3 As I began this research the Department of Health had just funded a research study by anthropologist Professor Jean La Fontaine, into the nature and extent of organised and ritual abuse in England and Wales. It was to be proclaimed as proving that ritual abuse, in the sense described by my informants, did not exist. When the brief final report of this research was published (La Fontaine, 1994) adult survivors accounts (which did not comprise any part of the research data) were dismissed as follows:

It should be recognised [...] that adults who claim to have been ritually abused, usually known as 'survivors', have been very influential. While their stories are said to confirm what children have said, in fact survivors are probably more significant in creating a climate of belief before cases involving children are discovered. Most survivors are women, though there is a male survivors group in London. (La Fontaine, 1994: p. 4)

3.4 La Fontaine's research was based on questionnaires completed by police and social workers and an examination of files referred to the Official Solicitor between 1988 and 1991. Her 35 page report includes 18 tables, but no quotations or even descriptions of comments made on questionnaires or in case files. Bald lists appear of 'features mentioned' ('Hats/headgear', 'Abortion', 'Drinking urine', 'Pentagrams') along with the frequency with which they were recorded in allegations, but with no indication of the context from which they were extracted. In her later book (La Fontaine, 1998) more detailed analysis of transcripts of social work interviews feature twice, but again they are lists of ritual features (more hats and candles mentioned where corroboration between accounts from different children has been claimed). In La Fontaine's interpretation of these, any similarities suggest collusion, while discrepancies are evidence of independent invention. This is a book the conclusions of which readers must accept on the author's authority. There is no account of the research methodology, data is presented only as snippets torn from case files and conversations. There is no attempt to explore the lived experience behind the text - of either the researcher or her informants.

Satanic disabuser

August 25, 1995



The Freud of her generation or a logical, objective academic? Celia Kitzinger meets anthropologist Jean La Fontaine, author of a controversial report into satanic abuse.

Anthropologists are not used to appearing in the newspapers, yet Jean La Fontaine made front-page headlines in mid-1994, when she found herself in the centre of a public furore over her research into child sexual abuse. Her research report, *The Extent and Nature of Organised and Ritual Abuse*, commissioned by the Department of Health, was widely read as denying the existence of satanic abuse. Leaked before publication, it was reported in one national broadsheet under the headline, "Government inquiry decides satanic abuse does not exist". For several weeks afterwards, La Fontaine's work was at the centre of arguments raging in the press about the prevalence of child sexual abuse in contexts involving human sacrifice, cannibalism, bestiality, dismemberment of fetuses, witchcraft and devil-worship. As La Fontaine remarks somewhat dryly: "Satanism sells newspapers."

Valerie Sinason, consultant psychotherapist at the Tavistock Institute, and editor of a book called *Treating Survivors of Satanic Abuse* has been quoted as saying that "I find it disturbing that one anthropologist's readings of transcripts are being listened to more seriously than 40 senior health service clinicians". When I mentioned Sinason's name to Jean La Fontaine, she replied: "I don't like to be arrogant, but there was only one Galileo who first said that the earth was moving around the sun. Numbers of believers don't count. Data and logic do".

Celia Kitzinger is director of women's studies at [Loughborough University](#).

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/satanic-disabuser/94959.article>

Rosalind Theresa Waterhouse



Acknowledgements

To my supervisors Michael Bromley and Chris French for invaluable guidance and support.

To Jean La Fontaine for her friendship and wisdom over 20 years.

To Mike Hill in New Zealand for sharing his encyclopaedic collection of papers and being my mentor.

To Sarah Churchwell for seeing the potential of my proposal.

To Christie Slade and Howard Tumber for encouragement and support. To Peter Ayton for guidance and approving a budget for books. To George Brock for supporting my sabbatical.

To Jacqui Farrants for her enthusiasm and sharing her review of research on false memories, which gave me a head start.

To Linda Lewis for providing such efficient sabbatical cover and to Melanie McFadyean for constant friendship and support.

To Martin Conway for his encouragement and guidance.

Waterhouse, R.T. (2014). Satanic abuse, false memories, weird beliefs and moral panics.
(Unpublished Doctoral thesis, City University London)



**CITY UNIVERSITY
LONDON**

[City Research Online](#)

Original citation: Waterhouse, R.T. (2014). Satanic abuse, false memories, weird beliefs and moral panics. (Unpublished Doctoral thesis, City University London)

Permanent City Research Online URL: <http://openaccess.city.ac.uk/11871/>

'Satanic Panic: The appalling damage done to children,' *Private Eye* 1150, 20 January 2006.

'Satanic Panic: A Can of Worms', *Private Eye* 1153, 3 March 2006.

'Satanic Panic: The Mything Link', *Private Eye* 1158, 12 May 2006.

'Satanic Panic: Child Abuse', *Private Eye* 1166, 1 September 2006.

British False Memory Society

BFMS WEBSITE

THE WEBSITE OF THE BRITISH FALSE MEMORY SOCIETY

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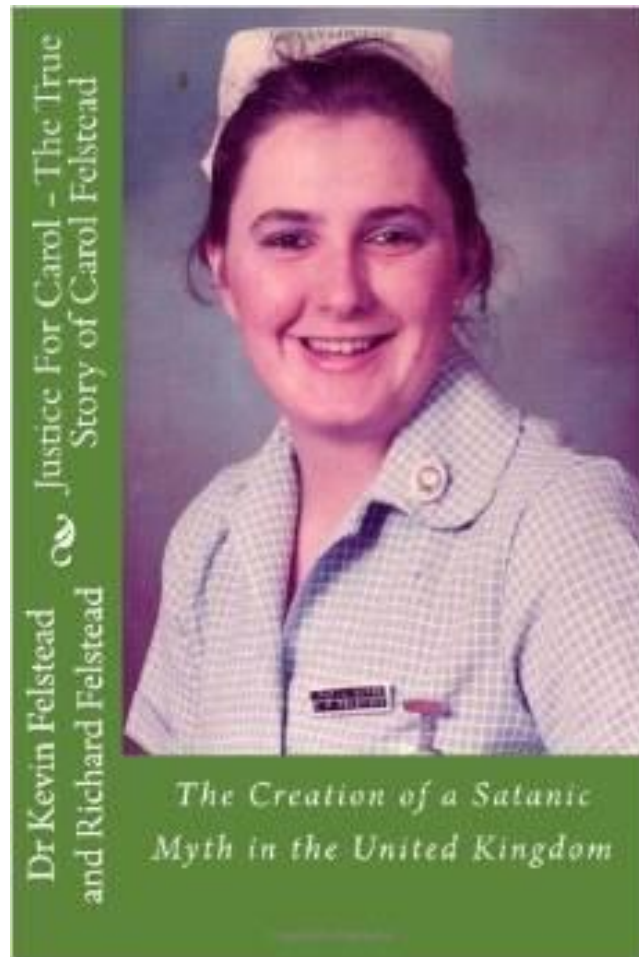
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False Memories?

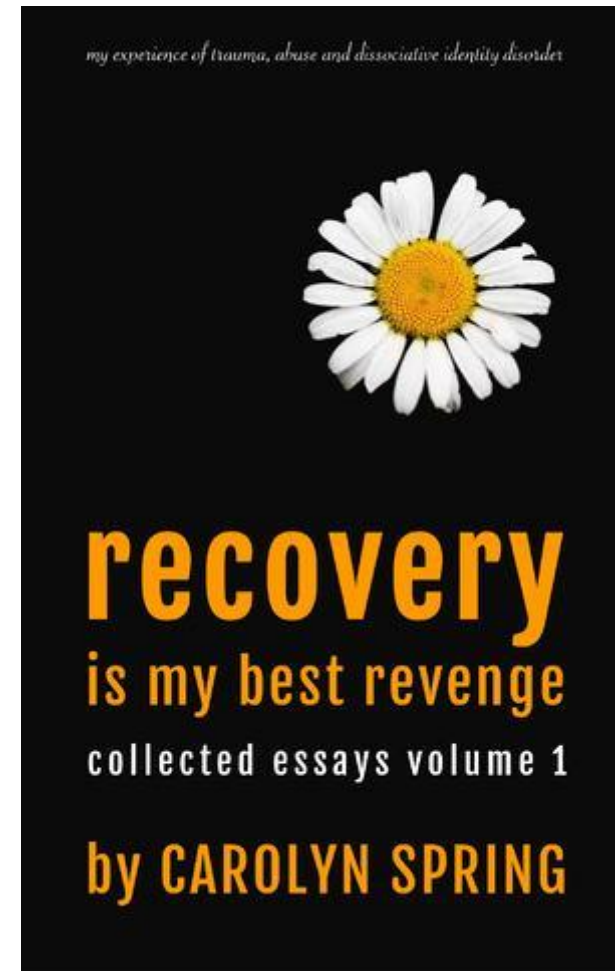


<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2011/dec/11/carole-myers-satanic-child-abuse/>

<http://www.justiceforcarol.com/>

<http://bfms.org.uk/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4994694/Third-inquest-nurse-died-satanic-cult-claims.html>



<http://www.pods-online.org.uk/>

<http://www.pods-online.org.uk/information.html>

THE SATANIST CULT OF TED HEATH: ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF AUTHORITY COMPROMISE

Summary

The late Edward Heath was Prime Minister of the UK from 1970 to 1974. In the wake of the Jimmy Saville abuse scandal 7 UK police forces are currently investigating child sexual abuse allegations against him. A 'leaked' document details membership of a group surrounding 'Ted' Heath. This poster explores the nature of the group and their alleged offences as well as the circumstances of the posting. It raises ethical questions on how mental health professionals ought to confront 'unbelievable' criminality when the perpetrators are shielded through authority compromise.



Background

Edward Heath was first elected to Parliament in 1950 for Bexley, was the Chief Whip from 1955 to 1959 and entered the Cabinet as Minister of Labour in 1959. In 1970 he won a surprise election victory and held the office of UK Prime Minister until 1974. He remained a backbench MP until retiring in 2001. Heath died on the 17 July 2005, at the age of 89. He was cremated on 25 July 2005 at a funeral service attended by 1,500 people in Salisbury Cathedral.

Child Sexual Abuse Allegations

In August 2015 Heath was under investigation by the Hampshire, Jersey, Kent, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Thames Valley police, and London's Metropolitan Police. Operation Midland of the Metropolitan Police in London is investigating alleged offences of an abuse ring around Edward Heath alleged to be responsible for extreme child abuse and three murders.

A document appeared on the web detailing activities of a group that appears to be a Paedophile ring that also engages in ritual torture and murder. Several variations can be found by typing 'Cult Funeral Edward Heath' in to a search engine. The 1st posting with all 19 pages appeared on the website of a blogger on 30th January 2014 accompanied by insightful comments – instead of proper investigation persecution by state powers followed:

<http://chrisspivey.org/the-whos-who-of-satanic-child-abuse/>

Objectives & Aims

The poster aims to raise international awareness of the investigation, shed light on the suspected 'Satanist' ideology behind the alleged cult and explore the implications for professional practices. It highlights the corrosive impact on society of powerful paedophile rings that are protected by compromised authority representatives and professionals.

Method

The document appears to be based on disclosures made by a female with Dissociative Identity Disorder (formerly known as Multiple Personality Disorder) from 1997 to 2008 to a Psychiatrist who has dealt with extreme abuse survivors since about 1987 and by 4 informers. Spot checks on the veracity of the information were made in the light of the 'Child Trafficking' scenario outlined by Kurz, (2015) which appears to involve an arson murder that continues to be covered up by authority representatives:

<https://arsoninformer.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/suspected-arson-murder.pdf>

Results

In terms of demographics the document names 235 individuals including 173 males. For 165 named individuals either a particular role in the group or an occupational field were coded.

Within the group 50 individuals fulfil entry-level roles (e.g. Messenger, Minder, Enforcer, Recruiter, Driver) while 13 fulfil high level roles (e.g. Commander, Master, High Priest).

14 individuals hold an Aristocratic title and appear to be particularly involved with the provision of venues for 'rituals'. The roles of 16 politicians mentioned included Councillor, Secretary of State for Health, Education and Home Office as well as Chancellor. 6 police officers are mentioned including 3 Chief Constables. 8 Church leaders feature including a Cardinal and a Bishop. 4 law professionals are mentioned including a judge. 8 Journalists, 4 TV Presenters and 7 Entertainers are mentioned.

Four individuals each fall into the professions Physician, Psychologist or Psychiatrist. One reportedly 'does the hypnosis, using blue lights' while another 'Wrote many sceptical papers on SRA' (Satanic Ritual Abuse). Two named academics in related fields investigated alleged child abuse cases and contributed to the pervasive 'Discourse of Disbelief'.

7 named individuals appear to be 'victims' with harrowing entries such as 'Unregistered child Killed at Halloween (sacrificed)', 'Aged 11. Tortured, then sacrificed' and 'Aged 19. Crucified (inverted) in New Forest, Good Friday, 06.04.07'. A particular chilling excerpt about a teenager who died reads 'Aged 14. Made pregnant by cult. Baby removed for sacrifice, by Caesarean Section without anaesthetic.'

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Discussion

The shenanigans described match descriptions in books based on self-identified abuse survivor and cases discussed on the Internet. Various spot checks corroborate disclosures made in the context of a chilling 'Child Trafficking' case (Kurz, 2015).

Ann Mahoney pleaded guilty to three counts of endeavouring to conceal the birth of a child:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/south_east/4303696.stm

Christopher and Christine Downs seemingly enacted a 'Forced Suicide':

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-447972/Middle-aged-couple-die-suicide-pact-husband-charged-rape.html>

Peter Tobin was found guilty of two rapes and three murders:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Tobin

The Video interview URL below refers to a number of UK ritual abuse cases where proper investigation is long overdue:

<http://www.ukcolumn.org/ukcolumn-news/uk-column-live-satanic-ritual-abuse/>

No indications were found that would throw the veracity of the document into doubt. The killings disclosed here and by 'Nick' in Operation Midland are in line with many survivor accounts. To trigger proper investigation the document and information about the related 'Child Trafficking' case were sent to an Operation Midland officer on 12/10/2015 and to selected MPs of four parties in December 2015 – no reply received.

Implications

In conclusion extreme abuse 'Death Cults' with Daesh-like practices appear to be well-established in the UK and continue to operate with 'de facto' impunity. Mental health professionals must stand up for victims and resist authority attempts to re-victimise abuse survivors and persecute their supporters.

References

Kurz, R. H. (2015a). *Prevention, Diagnosis and Healing of Complex Trauma: Applying the Great 8 Competencies*. Poster at the 3rd Annual Conference of the European Association of Psychosomatic Medicine (EAPM) in Nuremberg.

Kurz, R. H. (2015b). *Differentiation of Complex Trauma vs Schizophrenia through Diagnostic Assessment of Ability and Personality Characteristics*. Poster at the 3rd Annual Conference of the European Association of Psychosomatic Medicine (EAPM) in Nuremberg.

POOR QUALITY OF MENTAL HEALTH REPORTS IN UK FAMILY COURTS: A CALL TO ACTION

Summary

This poster highlights research that found 2/3 of Psychological assessment reports in UK family courts 'poor' or 'very poor'. It homes in on the 'Discourse of Disbelief' that is being proffered by many 'Court Appointed Experts' biased by the ubiquitous coverage of 'False Memory' perspectives even when there is no corresponding DSM entry. Mental health professionals need to critically reflect on poor assessment practices and speak out.

Introduction

Forensic Psychologist Prof Jane Ireland found in her report 'Evaluating Expert Witness Psychological Reports: Exploring Quality' that 65% of assessment reports sampled from UK Family Courts were 'poor' or 'very poor':

<http://www.ccats.org.uk/images/Expert%20Witness.pdf>

The study for the Family Justice Council examined 126 psychological reports tawled at random from family court documents. An illustration of the kind of problems encountered:

'Another woman was found by a psychologist to be "a competent mother" – so the social workers went to a second witness, who found the same. They then commissioned a third, who at last came up with what they wanted: that the mother had, again, "a borderline personality disorder". On that basis, her three children were sent for adoption.'

Objectives & Aims

The poster aims to raise international awareness of the problem and explain the contextual factors that contribute to malpractice. It highlights deficiencies in family court assessments and forensic processes in order to reduce the risk of unsafe custody rulings.

A particular focus is the 'Discourse of Disbelief' that appears to have gripped Family Courts and continues unabated in spite of numerous examples of extreme abuse coming to light recently e.g. Jimmy Saville, Colin & Elaine Batley (sentenced for child abuse in a Satanist cult), Albert & Carol Hickman (sentenced for 'blood sucking' satanist abuse etc.) and Ian Watkins (sentenced for baby abuse).

Figure 1: Prof Joan La Fontaine Professor Emeritus at London School of Economics (LSE)



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Method

Due to the paucity of published academic literature 'ad hoc' Internet searches were utilised to collect source material and identify advocates. A range of conferences, seminars and continued professional development (CPD) events revealed the background for some of the persistent problems.

Evidence for Extreme Abuse

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD) – nowadays referred to as Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) – first appeared in the 3rd edition of DSM (1980). It marked an acknowledgement of war trauma suffered (e.g. by many American in the Vietnam war) and the emergence of domestic trauma. Putnam (1989) wrote the landmark text book 'Diagnosis and Treatment of Multiple Personality Disorder (Foundations of Modern Psychiatry)'. Cases of extreme abuse emerged through the Franklin scandal in Nebraska (1989), in Nottingham (1989) and Orkney (1991). Sinason (1994) edited a book called 'Treating Survivors of Satanic Abuse' outlining numerous cases of extreme abuse (often perpetrated by 'Satanists') and approaches to therapy.

Prof Joan La Fontaine however submitted in 1994 a report that was widely read as denying the existence of abuse perpetrated by Satanists:

<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/94959.article>
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2000/feb/10/davidbrindle#>

Valerie Sinason, consultant psychotherapist at the Tavistock Institute has been quoted as saying that "I find it disturbing that one anthropologist's readings of transcripts are being listened to more seriously than 40 senior health service clinicians". The Secretary of State for Health Virginia Bottomley (1992 – 1995) accepted this report. In spite of vocal criticism. As a consequence the 1998 document 'Working Together' dropped 'bizarre and ritualised abuse' which had featured in 1991 version. It became a career limiting (or terminating) risk to 'believe' in the existence of abuse perpetrated by Satanists.

False Memories

Accused parents and academics concerned about false accusations came together in the US to form the False Memory Syndrome Foundation (FMSF) in 1991:

<http://www.fmsfonline.org/?about=AdvisoryBoardProfile>

Figure 2: Virginia Bottomley - Secretary of State for Health (1992 – 1995)



The 'British False Memory Society' (BFMS) was founded in 1993:

<http://bfms.org.uk/advisory-board/>

A letter by Dr Ashley Conway in the BPS monthly magazine 'The Psychologist' queried why numerous articles appeared in rapid succession where BFMS associated Psychologist featured prominently.

<https://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/volume-27/edition-5/letters-dyslexia-debate>

This included a glowing review of a book that Katharine Mair authored by Bryan Tully (both members of the BFMS Advisory Board), an article by and an interview with Gisli Gudjonsson CBE and 3 articles by Prof Chris French the most recent one provoked a response from the present author that can be found here:

<https://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/volume-28/october-2015/close-encounters-psychological-kind>

Conclusions

The suppression of the trauma-centric approach to mental health issues and its re-emergence are central to understanding the trajectory of 'Child Protection' and 'Family Court' processes in the UK and the US. Professionals who are supposed to uphold science, law and order may become unduly biased. Furthermore inadequate psychometric instruments appear to beguile some mental health professionals into wrong diagnosis and testimony that perpetuates the 'Discourse of Disbelief'.

Further information and references are here:

<https://arsoninformer.files.wordpress.com/2015/6/lead-version-10-09-2013.pdf>

BPS Guidelines False Beliefs?



<https://psychassessmentblog.wordpress.com/2016/10/08/who-framed-the-norwich-three-marie-black-jason-adams-michael-rogers/>

Who framed the 'Norwich Three' Marie Black, Jason Adams & Michael Rogers?

2016-09-22nd-letter-from-jason-adams-norwich-three-at-hmp-iow-due-to-edward-heath-abuse-group-shenanigans

Older readers may recall the 'Miscarriages of Justice' related to the 'Guildford Four' and the 'Birmingham Six' who were wrongly convicted of crimes and released when authorities finally admitted that the convictions were unsafe. Having visited Marie Black, Jason Adams & Michael Rogers in prison I consider their convictions extremely unsafe.

British Psychological Society (BPS) Guidelines & Practices

6 BPS Guidelines

1. Bernice Andrews, John Morton, Debra A. Bekerian, Chris R. Brewin, Graham M. Davies, Phil Morton - "Recovered Memories. The Report of the Working Party of The British Psychological Society" (1995)
2. Guidelines on Memory and the Law (2008; Revised April 2010)
3. Diagnosis - Policy and Guidance Description (2013)
4. Psychologists as Expert Witnesses: Guidelines and Procedure (4th Edition April 2015)
5. Psychologists as expert witnesses in the Family Courts in England and Wales: Standards, competencies and expectations (Jan 2016)
6. Guidance document on the management of disclosures of non-recent (historic) child sexual abuse (May 2016)

“Recovered Memories. The Report of the Working Party of The British Psychological Society” (1995)

- Covers full spectrum from complex trauma through to false memories
- Mentions Dissociative Disorders (formerly Multiple Personality Disorder)
- UK Psychologists: Bernice Andrews, John Morton, Debra A. Bekerian, Chris R. Brewin, Graham M. Davies, Phil Morton
- In line with Trauma literature
- Not on BPS website – request from BPS Office or download from:

<https://www.researchgate.net/project/Psychometric-Performance-Assessment>

Article in The Psychologist May 1995 (pp. 209-214):

<https://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/volume-8/edition-5>

Across 1083 survey respondents (overall responsive rate: 27%) 13% of respondents worked with clients reporting SRA and believed them (15% had clients reporting SRA)

**Statistics: Possible Aftereffects – Extreme Abuse Survey EAS, 2007
(Table 18 – All Surveys EAS-P)**

Slide adapted from: Sadegh, A. (2017). <https://spidercatweb.blog/2017/05/03/fsf/>

99%	Suicidal thoughts around special holidays, birthdays, etc.	90%	89%	88%	Dissociative 77%	
		Hospitalization in a psychiatric unit	Survivor guilt	Substance abuse	flashbacks with satanic themes	
97%	92%	86%	77%	77%	Sexual urges, triggered by feelings of 62%	
		Migraine headaches	Dealing with programs installed by perpetrator(s)	Mysterious ailments for which a diagnosis cannot be made	threat, fear, shame, guilt, etc.	
Sleep problems	Self-mutilating behaviours	84%	74%	62%	62%	61%
		Suicidal thoughts immediately before traumatic memories surface	Infliction of sexual pain on self	Unexplained external scarring	Seizures with no organic basis	Fibromyalgia
96%	Beliefs indoctrinated by perpetrator(s)	81%	71%	48%	47%	44%
		Other possible aftereffects of extreme child abuse	Auto-immune disorders	Unexplained internal scarring	Infliction of sexual pain or others	Sexually-transmitted disease(s)
95%	91%	78%	66%	47%	43%	35%
					Art Production with abus/torture films	Unexplained bruises and wounds
Unusual fears	Eating disorder			42%	28%	Multiple...
				Infertility	Cancer	

SESSION WITHDRAWN

14:00 Symposium 7345

Trauma, dissociation, healing

Symposium submitted by Dr Rainer Hermann Kurz

Member of the BPS Committee on Test Standards

Science & Practice Strategy Convener of the BPS DOP

Member of the BPS Research Board

**Symposium unilaterally 'withdrawn' (i.e. cancelled)
at short notice by Conference Chair Dr Peter Branney**

**Extract of Dr Branney's foreword: '...hopefully this
conference will inspire you to get involved in the BPS'**

Therapeutic Approach (Respondents could indicate more than 1)				
Psychodynamic	41%			
Cognitive-Behavioural	59%			
Systems	19%			
Client-centred/humanistic	38%			
Feminist	16%			
Therapeutic Practice				
Focus on early experiences	6% rarely	51% sometimes	43% usually	
Use of hypnotic regression	10%			
Clients in target group (over 18, non-psychotic) in past year				
Number seen	46% <20	18% 20-40	36% >40	
Respondents with clients reporting child sexual abuse (CSA)	8% none	70% 1-10	22% >10	
Experience of Respondents with Clients Recovering Memories				
In past year				
% with clients recovering CSA memories from total amnesia				
In therapy with respondent	23%			
In therapy with another	19%			
Prior to any therapy	31%			
% with clients recovering other traumatic memories from total amnesia				
In therapy with respondent	28%			
In previous years				
% with clients recovering any traumatic memory from total amnesia				
In therapy with respondent	45%			
Respondents' Beliefs About Recovered Memories				
Belief in essential accuracy of recovered memories	3% never	53% sometimes	38% usually	6% always
Belief in possibility of false memories	67% yes		33% no	
False memories ever in own practice	85% never	11% sometimes	4% more than once	
Respondents' Beliefs about Satanic Ritual Abuse				
Belief in essential accuracy of reports of SRA	3% never	54% sometimes	38% usually	5% always
Ever worked with clients reporting SRA and believed them (15 per cent had clients reporting SRA)	13%			

Table 2. Responses to questionnaire items

Bernice Andrews, John Morton, Debra A. Bekerian, Chris R. Brewin, Graham M. Davies, Phil Morton - "Recovered Memories. The Report of the Working Party of The British Psychological Society" (1995)

Survey "Recovered Memories"

Questionnaires sent out: 4005 (Division of Clinical Psychology – DCP, Division of Counselling Psychology – DCoP, the Special Group in Health Psychology – SGHP, Psychotherapy Section – PS)
 Questionnaires returned: 1083 (overall responsive rate: 27%)

Items: 19 questions

13% of respondents worked with clients reporting SRA and believed them (15% had clients reporting SRA)

Adapted from slide prepared by Magister Andrea Sadegh for her scheduled presentation in the Symposium 'Trauma, dissociation and healing' accepted for the BPS Annual Conference 2017 ('withdrawn' by the Conference Chair 10 days before the event)

Guidelines on Memory and the Law

Revised April 2010 (I)

- **Description:** The Society is minded to ensure that legal professionals and the courts are appropriately advised as to the type of evidence-based psychological expert evidence that can be provided and whom is appropriately competent to provide such advice. Please therefore note that since the publication of this report, the Society's guidance for psychologists as expert witnesses is being updated in conjunction with a broader review of what is meant by an "expert witness".
- **Author:** Psychology Research Board
- **Publication date:** 2010 (Original Version 2008)
- **Size:** 51 pages

BPS Guidelines are due to be reviewed after 5 years and put into the Archive section:

https://www.bps.org.uk/system/files/user-files/Society%20Member/memory_the_law_revised_version_april_2010_web.pdf

Guidelines on Memory and the Law

Revised April 2010 (II)

A Report from the Research Board

Revised April 2010

Contributors

The Memory and The Law Committee

A Working Party of the Research Board of the British Psychological Society (BPS)

Members

Dr C. Brown, University of Leeds

Dr S.J. Brown, University of Coventry

Professor M.A. Conway, University of Leeds (**Chair**)

Dr J.A. Ellis, University of Reading

Dr R. Holliday, University of Kent at Canterbury

Dr E.A. Holmes, University of Oxford

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Professor D.B. Wright, Florida International University

Ms S.C. Wright, Barrister, Sheffield

Acknowledgements

The meetings of the working party, preparation of the report, and publication, were supported by the Research Board of the British Psychological Society.

Martin A. Conway was supported by the award of a Professorial Fellowship from the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), RES-051-27-0127.

Emily A. Holmes was supported by the award of a Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship and a grant from the Economic and Social Research Council, RES-061-23-0030.

Guidelines on Memory and the Law

Revised April 2010 (III)

Ref: COG7495

Delivered: 28/5/2010

*Judgment: approved by the Court for handing down
(subject to editorial corrections)*

IN HER MAJESTY'S COURT OF APPEAL IN NORTHERN IRELAND

THE QUEEN

v

DENNIS PATRICK McCALMONT

and

DERMOT JAMES WADE

Before Higgins LJ, Girvan LJ and Coghlin LJ

COGHLIN LJ

The application to admit fresh evidence

28th May 2010
Court of Appeal
Northern Ireland
Judgement

[9] Perhaps the primary concern, in the context of this application to admit expert evidence, is the statistical validity for the application of the propositions advanced by Professor Conway to the circumstances of these appeals. It was not altogether easy to obtain a clear picture of the nature and extent of the database from which Professor Conway had derived his main propositions. Professor Brewin appeared to have asked for relevant details but without a great deal of success. It seems that at least part of the data upon which Professor Conway relied in relation to the ability to recall earliest memories was drawn from a BBC survey of children and much of the remainder of the research seems to have been based upon laboratory experiments. At one stage Professor Conway referred to "a very large data base of first memories" amounting to some 10,000. However, in answer to a question from the court he expressly conceded that his evidence was not based upon any empirical research specifically directed to childhood memories of sexual abuse. In such circumstances the scientific basis is lacking for his assertion that the guidelines for evaluating childhood memories contained in his report apply to such memories of sexual abuse. In the absence of relevant data it is not possible to say whether they do or not. The danger of failing to comprehend this basic requirement for the validity of inferences drawn from empirical observations was neatly illustrated by the

abuse may well have characteristics that distinguish them from other types of autobiographical memory. In the event of Professor Conway being given permission to give evidence it would seem almost inevitable that the Crown would seek to rely upon Professor Brewin, or some other appropriately qualified expert, for the purposes of highlighting the shortcomings of his evidence. There would be conflicting expert evidence as to the nature and extent of inferences that could be validly drawn from the relevant research, the extent to which the childhood memories of sexual abuse in adults not suffering from PTSD might display distinctive characteristics, the nature and extent of such characteristics, the extent to which such characteristics might be related to the police interviewing process etc. In summary, we do not believe that such a debate would be of assistance to a jury which would then be faced with the difficult task of reaching conclusions as to what was scientifically "unusual" but not necessarily "unreliable" evidence.

[12] Apart from its scientific foundations, the court had some further reservations about Professor Conway's evidence. For example, he categorised

Guidelines on Memory and the Law

Revised April 2010 (IV)

R v H [2011] EWCA Crim 2344

- Mr Barlow submitted that the judge ought to have warned the jury about the dangers and unreliability of purported memories of early childhood. This ground was again directed to the case of D, where on one view of the evidence the earliest recollection took him back to the age of 3/4 years old. Mr Barlow referred to expert evidence of the unreliability of detailed early childhood memories which had been proffered from a Professor Conway: see *R v. JH and TG (deceased)* [\[2005\] EWCA Crim 1828](#). That evidence was to the effect that there is childhood amnesia until about the age of 6 or 7, before which childhood memory is disjointed and patchy, so that detailed recollection should be regarded as unreliable.
- However, such evidence has come to be regarded as unsatisfactory in itself: see *R v. Jonathan CWS; R v. Malcolm W* [\[2006\] EWCA Crim 1404](#); *R v. E* [\[2009\] EWCA Crim 1370](#). At most this controversial evidence, now sceptically regarded, could in any event relate only to counts 1 and 2 on the indictment (which, however, because they stretched over three years took D up to his sixth birthday). Moreover, D did not purport to remember early matters in any suspicious detail. Mr Barlow suggested that the jury should have been warned that even an honest and apparently credible witness, speaking of his extreme childhood, may be mistaken and then led astray by false recollection: as though this was the constant experience of the courts, as a sort of analogy to a *Turnbull* identification direction. Mr Barlow accepted that there was no authority to support this submission, but said that it was time there was one. We disagree. The difficulties of recollection of our early childhood are familiar to us all: although perhaps it is only those who have suffered abuse at an early age who can really understand the extent to which the abuse may be known even if the details of the surrounding circumstances are not. In any event the judge did warn the jury, in more traditional terms, of the problem of delay, the danger of prejudice to a defendant, and that this must be in the jury's mind when deciding whether the prosecution had made them sure of the defendant's guilt. He also cautioned them that the passage of time "may play tricks on memories"; and asked them to "Look at all of the evidence fairly and apply your collective knowledge of life in deciding where the truth lies". In our judgment, these were entirely satisfactory directions.

Guidelines on Memory and the Law

Revised April 2010 (V)

Neutral Citation Number: [2012] EWCA Crim 1785

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL
CRIMINAL DIVISION

Case No. 2011/04796/C3

Royal Courts of Justice
The Strand
London
WC2A 2LL

Date: Friday 20 July 2012

Before:

LADY JUSTICE HALLETT DBE

MRS JUSTICE COX DBE

and

MR JUSTICE HADDON-CAVE

REGINA

- v -

STEPHEN ANDERSON

20th July 2012

Royal Court of Justice
(RCJ) Court of Appeal
Criminal Division

9. Although not now relevant to this appeal we feel we should mention that this is not the first time that Mr Barlow and his instructing solicitors have attempted to overturn a conviction on the basis of Professor Conway's evidence as to the reliability of childhood memories. His reports are controversial. Only once to our knowledge, in an "unusual" case, has this court accepted his evidence (see R v JH and R v TG [2006] 1 Cr App R 10). However, the court was unaware at that time of significant criticisms of Professor Conway's methodology which have led to the court's declining to receive his evidence (see R v S [2006] EWCA Crim 1404, R v E [2009] EWCA Crim 1370 and R v H [2011] EWCA Crim 2344). In the light of those decisions, we have our doubts as to whether JH and TG, which was restricted very much to a specific set of facts, would be decided the same way today. Professor Conway may wish to consider amending his CV in which, we note, he mentions only R v JH and r v TG.

Diagnosis - Policy and Guidance Description (2013)

Diagnosis commonly based on ICD and DSM

- **Diagnosis - Policy and Guidance Description: Outlines the Society's policy on mental and behavioural disorder classification systems**
- **Author: Professional Practice Board**
- **Publication date: 2013**
- **Size: 103KB; 3 pages**
- **Cost: FREE**

<http://www.bps.org.uk/system/files/documents/diagnosis-policyguidance.pdf>

Psychologists as Expert Witnesses: Guidelines and Procedure (4th Edition April 2015)

- **Description:** A guide for psychologists on acting as an expert witness covering both ethical principles and practicalities.

Publication date: 2015

Size: 370KB; 36 pages

Cost: FREE

[Http://www.bps.org.uk/system/files/Public%20files/inf129 april 2015 web expert witness guidance.pdf](http://www.bps.org.uk/system/files/Public%20files/inf129_april_2015_web_expert_witness_guidance.pdf)

Psychologists as expert witnesses in the Family Courts in England and Wales: Standards, competencies and expectations (Jan 2016)

- **Description:** Companion document for psychologists to the generic expert witness standards, prepared by the Family Justice Council and the British Psychological Society. The guidance provides information to all stakeholders regarding the use of psychologists as expert witnesses and provides discipline specific information in relation to regulation, codes of conduct, competencies, supervision/peer review and quality of service.
- **Author:** Professional Practice Board and Family Justice Council
- **Publication Date:** January 2016
- **Size:** 33 pages

http://www.bps.org.uk/system/files/Public%20files/inf248_family_court_guidance_web.pdf

Guidance document on the management of disclosures of non-recent (historic) child sexual abuse (May 2016)

- **Description:** Guidance for practitioner psychologists who are concerned about how to respond to client disclosures of non-recent sexual abuse during assessment or therapeutic work.
- **Author:** British Psychological Society
- **Publication Date:** May 2016
- **Size:** 485KB, 36 pages

http://www.bps.org.uk/system/files/Public%20files/Policy/child_sex_abuse_web_2.pdf

www.bps.org.uk/historicalsexualabuse

Advocate Consultation Response

Rainer,

I have very strong views on court appointed psychologists who assess parents accused of failing to defend children from sexual abuse or simply assessing the parents themselves as a potential risk.

If such assessments are to be fair and unbiased the psychologist should not be given highly critical reports from social workers to read before meeting the parent/patient.

The social workers are adverse parties in impending court cases so psychologists should approach the patient with an open mind not one biased to such an extent by social service reports that in some cases psychologists declare parents unfit without ever meeting them !

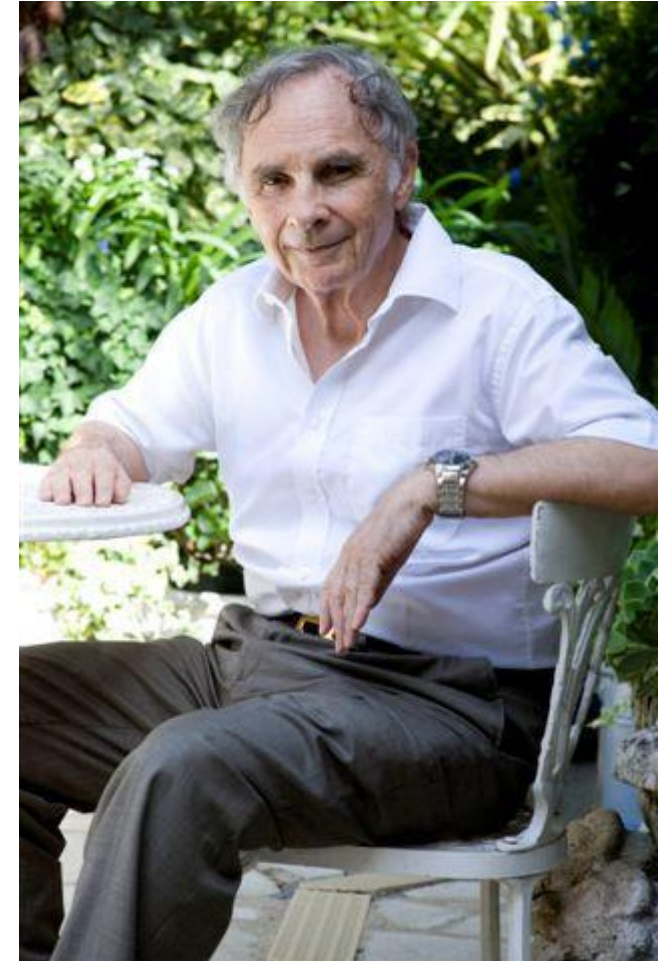
Alas judges insist on psychologists chosen by them (not the patient) reading these reports and answering leading questions such as “does the mother now realise the seriousness of her condition (or that of her partner aged 40+ who slept with a 15 year old girl when he was 19) and the risk she runs to the children?”

When the mother’s case is that neither she nor her partner are a risk and that neither suffer any personality disorder such a question assumes the contrary before any assessment has been made.

The theory is that choice of psychologist and choice of such questions are agreed by both parties but the practice is that they are not.

Hope this gives food for thought,

IAN JOSEPHS



<https://forced-adoption.com/>

Where is the BPS Guide to the Dark Side?

17 year old 'Maria' was brought to hospital by her mother having survived a suicide attempt with paracetamols. The psychiatric nurse at the hospital found her unresponsive other than general comments that she is now happy she survived and does not consider herself at risk any more.

Her mother did not want her father to know as she thinks it would open up complex issues. Family therapy revealed that her father and mother were sexually abused in their childhood. Maria opens up to you with disclosures that she has been sexually abused by her father since she was a toddler and describes an incident that happened a few days ago. Her mother seems to 'look away' and cut short conversation with phrases such as 'talking about sex is not ladylike'.

Maria opens up to you disclosing that at the age of 13 or 14 she had a baby. The birth of the girl in her family home was reportedly not registered and the baby 'disappeared'.

'Amanda' has been brought to you by a friend who believes her account of a sexual assault on her child. The mother delayed reporting due to fear of reprisals and repercussions. Several mental health professionals found her account 'unbelievable' and considered her delusional. Police closed the case and Social Workers have raised 'neglect' concerns. In your interview the conduct of Amanda's parents appears strange. There are no reasons to doubt the veracity of her account of the assault.

Nicola Gale
presidentsoffice@bps.org.uk

Discourse of Disbelief – Invited Focal Article (2016)

Applied Cognitive Psychology, Appl. Cognit. Psychol. (2016)

Published online in Wiley Online Library (wileyonlinelibrary.com) DOI: 10.1002/acp.3220

Creating Memories for False Autobiographical Events in Childhood: A Systematic Review

CHRIS R. BREWIN^{1*} and BERNICE ANDREWS²

¹*University College London, London, UK*

²*Royal Holloway, University of London, London, UK*

Summary: Using a framework that distinguishes autobiographical belief, recollective experience, and confidence in memory, we review three major paradigms used to suggest false childhood events to adults: imagination inflation, false feedback and memory implantation. Imagination inflation and false feedback studies increase the belief that a suggested event occurred by a small amount such that events are still thought unlikely to have happened. In memory implantation studies, some recollective experience for the suggested events is induced on average in 47% of participants, but only in 15% are these experiences likely to be rated as full memories. We conclude that susceptibility to false memories of childhood events appears more limited than has been suggested. The data emphasise the complex judgements involved in distinguishing real from imaginary recollections and caution against accepting investigator-based ratings as necessarily corresponding to participants' self-reports. Recommendations are made for presenting the results of these studies in courtroom settings. Copyright © 2016 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/acp.3220/full>

Discourse of Disbelief – Rejoinder Focal Article (2016)

Rejoinder

False Memories and Free Speech: Is Scientific Debate Being Suppressed?

Bernice Andrews , Chris R. Brewin

First published: 14 October 2016 [Full publication history](#)

DOI: 10.1002/acp.3285 [View/save citation](#)

Cited by (CrossRef): 0 articles [Check for updates](#)  Citation tools ▼



 score 6

Summary

Commentators have raised important points, including the relative contribution of false beliefs versus false memories and the issue of how findings in the laboratory can be generalized to the real world, which we have addressed here. However, some of the commentaries misrepresent what we said, make criticisms that are unfounded, or imply that our article should not have been published in Applied Cognitive Psychology. We relate these responses to a more general literature on the suppression of unwanted scientific findings and suggest that the study of false memory would be better served by more openness to alternative perspectives.



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Target Article and
Commentaries: Creating
Memories for False
Autobiographical Events in
Childhood

 
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<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/acp.v31.1/issuetoc>

<https://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/volume-30/july-2017/false-memories-childhood-abuse>

Implanting False Allegations?

Child Snatching 'South Coast Style'

In a chilling case a happy family with many children lost all their children due to Family Court processes. The father had some health problems so that the family asked Social Services for help. A 'helper' observed a 10 year old boy fooling around with a sister 'playacting' (some kind of 'strangling' theme) and reported this to the council that 'recommended' removal of this child. The boy had a very difficult birth and life threatening illness at age 2 – severe traumas in early childhood increase the likelihood of dissociative symptoms/disorders and make the individual more open to manipulation.

Some months into 'foster care' this boy started to make allegations about inappropriate sexual relationships within the family. Gradually all children were taken into care. It eventually transpired that the boy had been moved more than 5 times from foster family to foster family as he threatened to 'make up' sexual abuse allegations if foster carers did not do what he wanted them to do. How did he learn the trick? Perhaps from the very odd Social Services Team Leader who had already been moved from the neighbouring city after parent complaints? The boy became grossly over-weight and got into trouble at the latest care home breaking a window. At one contact session this boy stated to his father: 'I am sorry about the nasty things that I said. They were not true.' He repeated that to his Social Worker. Result: All contact stopped.



Norwich Child Smuggling

A chilling custody battle received a lot of media attention when Norwich Social Workers took baby Luna from her British parents who habitually resided in France. Marie's five children had been 'taken into care' due to concerns about domestic violence in previous relationships. It turns out that Marie had been coerced into a 'Voluntary Section 20' arrangement of 'temporary foster care' while sorting out accommodation. However when a 4 bedroom house was ready the authorities repeatedly refused to return the children appealing immediately against Court Orders to return them. Joe and Marie were teenage sweethearts for 4 years leading to the birth of their first child. A Social Worker informed Joe and Marie's oldest child that paternity was confirmed but shortly afterwards claimed following DNA testing that the father was 'unknown'. Without any medical proof authorities claimed that Joe was a violent person who once broke Marie's arm yet refused to release Marie's NHS medical records.

One child experienced early trauma (shattered glass door at 3 months & facial injury at 2 years) and 'Urinary Tract Infection' from the age of 3 necessitating many medical examination. From the age of 4 the child was known 'to make things up'. While in 'temporary foster care' the child claimed that Marie wanted to take back only this child and one other. The foster carers were fully aware that this was a lie. After 9 months Social Workers 'out-of-the-blue' produced pages of allegations of sexual abuse involving relatives, friends and members of institutions. Disgraced Psychiatrist Anthony Baker played a pivotal role:

<https://cathyfox.wordpress.com/2016/08/11/dr-anthony-baker-ashwood-medical-practice/>

<https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Psychiatrist+%27planted+sex+abuse+memories%27.-a060702714>

One allegations was that Marie ostensibly put a baby that her friend had 'run over' into a bag, carried it into her house and made her children drink its blood! What is the credibility of these allegations when the friend did not own a car and did not have a driving licence either? No baby was reported missing and no dead baby was found.

Without any physical evidence a criminal case ensued against 10 defendants most of whom were members of Marie's family while the remaining 30 'alleged abusers' were not even interviewed! In extremely dubious circumstances Marie and two former partners were found guilty of sexual abuse.

Kurz, R. (2017). FROM HAMPSTEAD TO NORWICH: RITUAL VIOLENCE OR COACHING?

BPS Publication The Psychologist

The Psychologist is the magazine of **The British Psychological Society**

It provides a forum for communication, discussion and controversy among all members of the Society, and aims to fulfil the main object of the Royal Charter, 'to promote the advancement and diffusion of a knowledge of psychology pure and applied'

Managing Editor Jon Sutton

Assistant Editor Peter Dillon-Hooper **Production** Mike Thompson

Journalist Ella Rhodes **Editorial Assistant** Debbie Gordon

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Conferences Alana James **History of Psychology** Alison Torn **Interviews** Gail Kinman

Culture Kate Johnstone, Sally Marlow **Books** Emily Hutchinson, Rebecca Stack

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The Psychologist and Digest Editorial Advisory Committee

Catherine Loveday (Chair), Emma Beard, Phil Banyard, Harriet Gross, Kimberley Hill, Rowena Hill, Peter Olusoga, Richard Stephens, Miles Thomas

False Memories & FIBS

Resource Links:

Editorial 'Ethical standards, truths, and lies' of the Journal of Trauma & Dissociation 25th April 2016:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15299732.2016.1114357>

Professor Ross E. Cheit 'Recovered Memory Project':

<http://blogs.brown.edu/recoveredmemory/2015/07/22/loftus-hoffman-report/#more-2082>

BPS Publication 'The Psychologist' False Memory vs. Complex Trauma URLs and Text (v. 10th May 2016):

<https://psychassessmentblog.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/bps-publication-the-psychologist-false-memory-vs-complex-trauma-urls-and-text-v-10th-may-2016.pdf>

Appeal Court Judge View on Testimony of Prof Martin Conway:

<https://psychassessmentblog.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/prof-martin-conway-appeal-court-judge-views.pdf>

Prof Joan La Fontaine - Galileo Galilei or Sigmund Freud:

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/satanic-disabuser/94959.article>

Advisory Board of the British False Memory Society:

<http://bfms.org.uk/advisory-board/>

How reliable is your memory? | Elizabeth Loftus TED Talk:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PB2Oegl6wvI>

Ralph Underwager - Paidika Interview of a False Memory Foundation 'Court Expert':

https://davidshurter.com/?page_id=2894

'Vampires & Ritual Violence' E-Letter in 'The Psychologist' & BPS Obfuscation of Extreme Abuse:

<https://psychassessmentblog.wordpress.com/2016/12/18/vampires-ritual-violence-e-letter-in-the-psychologist-bps-obfuscation-of-extreme-abuse/>



Questions for Prof Loftus

Excerpt of Dr Ashley Conway posting to BPS Independent Practitioner Forum (IPRAC) Forum in response to the May 2016 edition of The Psychologist, where the Editor, Jon Sutton, described his meeting with Professor Elizabeth Loftus (p.236).

- 1. Is it true that it was the filing of two ethics complaints against you that caused your resignation from the American Psychological Association (APA) in the late 1990's?*
- 2. In 2003 the APA gave you an award for Distinguished Scientific Applications of Psychology. That's a big change – resignation to award in a few years – what happened?*
- 3. Are you a member of the APA today? And what are your reasons for being (or not being) a member of the APA?*
- 4. Memory can be unreliable in two directions – false positive (when somebody comes to believe that something happened, which did not) and false negative (where somebody comes to believe that something did not happen, that did). False positive and false negative memory might be likened to Type 1 and Type 2 research errors, would you agree?*
- 5. Your “lost in a shopping mall” study demonstrated that older family members play a powerful role in defining reality for dependent younger family members. You believe that it is possible that memory is so malleable that an individual could falsely recall a complex history of abuse, that in fact never occurred. Is it equally possible that someone who was abused could be persuaded that their recall was a false memory, and that they could come to falsely believe that they had not been abused?*
- 6. Could a perpetrator who had committed acts of abuse falsely believe that he or she was not an abuser?*
- 7. If the answer to this question is yes, why don't you investigate “False Innocence Belief Syndrome” as an area of false memory? If the answer is no, do you believe that false memories only go in one direction (false positive)? If so, what is the evidence for that?*
- 8. You get some emotional reactions to your opinions. Perhaps because it might appear to some that the direction of your work helps abusers, and disadvantages genuine victims of abuse - what would you say to that?*
- 9. Who has benefited from your research?*
- 10. Ted Bundy was one of America's worst serial rapists and murderers. He murdered 30 women in 7 states and was executed in 1989. In an earlier article, The Psychologist reported your comments regarding Ted Bundy when you testified on his first case. You stated: “... that was before we really knew who Ted Bundy was. He was a charming man! He was absolutely charming and obviously very sick but we didn't really know that at the time.” His biographer Ann Rule described him as “a sadistic sociopath who took pleasure from another human's pain and the control he had over his victims, to the point of death.” You have testified in many cases where people are accused of very serious crimes. Is it possible that you may have mis-judged others, as you did Ted Bundy?*
- 11. False Memory Syndrome is sometimes described as a modern day pseudo-scientific version of the Oedipus complex - a way of dismissing the account of an abuse victim as fantasy, that allows our society to avoid dealing with the very uncomfortable possibility that the vast majority of allegations of sexual abuse are true. How would you comment on that?*

Unpublished! Suppressed by BPS Policy Team!

BPS – obsessed with false memory syndrome?

The Savile story broke in October 2012. In *The Psychologist*, between May 2013 and March 2014 there were at least five glowing articles about three psychologists linked to false memory syndrome (FMS) groups – Beth Loftus, Gisli Gudjonsson (twice) and Chris French (twice). In the latest edition (April 2014) there are two more. On the back page there is a one-on-one with Stephen Ceci. The centrefold ‘Crudely erased adults’ and subtitled ‘Image from A.R.Hopwood’s False Memory Archive’ is essentially an advert for a piece of FMS publicity.

There are two types of inaccurate memory – false positive (believing something has been experienced when it has not) and false negative (believing that something has not been experienced, when in fact it has). The FMS societies are only interested in false positives – they do not want to talk about false negatives.

Let's be clear. The term ‘false memory syndrome’ is not to be found in DSM-5, because it is not a diagnosis recognised by any professional body. It is a term invented by a pressure group.

Dissociative amnesia, on the other hand, is defined in DSM-5 (‘An inability to recall important autobiographical information, usually of a traumatic or stressful nature...’), and inability to recall an important aspect of a traumatic event is one of the defining features of PTSD. Dissociative amnesia, unlike ‘false memory syndrome’, is recognised worldwide by the international professional community. Since October 2012 I cannot recall an article in *The Psychologist* about the real and relatively common

phenomena of traumatic/dissociative amnesia, nor anything about the stress for victims of abuse, or how psychologists or courts might help this stress be managed and reduced.

At the beginning of 2013 Frances Andrede, a mother in her forties, committed suicide mid-trial of the teacher who abused her decades earlier. This happened after she was accused by the defence barrister of being a liar and a fantasist. Her abuser was subsequently found guilty, and received a prison sentence. Within hours of this news breaking, the BPS decided to postpone its Ethics Committee investigation into members lending their names to inaccurate information about abuse on the British False Memory Society website.

We like to think of researchers as being objective. Those with links to FMS groups generally restrict themselves to research on false positives. This is where the conflicts begin. They research one part of a problem, and ignore another. Then they sit on FMS advisory boards, and BPS committees, and may act as expert witnesses (generally for the defence in criminal prosecutions), and are given glowing reviews in *The Psychologist*. This does not seem like good practice.

In contrasting FMS advocates with victims of abuse, a colleague put it succinctly to me: the former is a very small group with a very loud voice, whereas the latter is a very large group with a very quiet voice.

To an outsider it might very reasonably appear that the BPS, as portrayed through *The Psychologist*, makes the situation worse.

It appears to have something of an obsession with the invented condition ‘false memory syndrome’ and no interest at all in dissociative amnesia, or in understanding the psychological consequences for victims of abuse, or helping these individuals with the problems arising from the abuse that they have suffered.

I believe that this bias puts psychologists in a very poor light, and balance from *The Psychologist* is long overdue.

Ashley Conway PhD

Pinner, Middlesex

Jon Sutton, Editor of The Psychologist replies: Neither *The Psychologist* nor the British Psychological Society has links with the British False Memory Society. However, we see no issue with featuring the work of psychologists who are members of it; and some of our members will naturally also be members of the British False Memory Society. I am informed that the Ethics Committee meeting you refer to was cancelled due to unavailability of members and had to be rescheduled. We are and always have been very happy to receive submissions on the topic of dissociative amnesia or the consequences of abuse – see www.thepsychologist.org.uk/contribute. For example, last year we published an article on the effects of childhood abuse (featured on the November cover) and an interview with Kevin Browne on his international work with abused children (June).

Prof Martin Conway's Views

<https://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/volume-27/edition-7/beliefs-about-autobiographical-memory>

<https://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/volume-27/edition-10/letters-assisted-dying-debate>

'bona-fide memory researchers,

the Zealots,

the Old Guard,

and the Fantasists'

Memory – from zeal to fantasy

Over many years of acting as memory expert witnesses we have identified four groups of people who are happy to stand up in court and give 'expert' memory advice, whether or not they are 'memory' expert witnesses: bona-fide memory researchers, the Zealots, the Old Guard, and the Fantasists. When we wrote our article ('Beliefs about autobiographical memory', July 2014) we confidently expected to hear from these last three groups, and we were not disappointed (see Letters, September 2014).

The Zealots have a fundamentalist belief that memory is accurate, particularly so when it is of emotionally negative or traumatic events. This group place great emphasis on any findings that selectively give support to their single central belief. This is why the modern view of human memory, outlined in our article and based upon a full review of the scientific findings, is so troubling to them: the vast amount of data on autobiographical memory shows the notion of 'accuracy', and indeed of 'confidence', to be highly complex. Even worse, no memory is accurate in being a complete or literal copy of an experience (the core of their belief).

Members of this group would benefit from studying the important and influential 2008 report *Memory and the Law* from the British Psychological Society's Research Board (download via tinyurl.com/oydxy3x). A team of national and international memory researchers provided advice on memory distilled from a wide and representative range of memory research. The modern view of human memory is based on about 35 years of research into many different aspects of memory, including beliefs about memory, extensively reviewed in this report (as well as in the recent volume by Nadel & Sinnott-Armstrong, 2012, and a forthcoming volume, Conway et al., in press).

The Old Guard is represented here by Professor Michael Kopelman, a colleague of ours and one of the country's leading psychiatrists, a bona-fide memory expert, and a leading expert witness in our courts for several decades. Kopelman is clearly right to note that psychologists give expert advice in many areas and not just in cases that prominently feature memory. Our interest is, however, in those cases where memory is the only or main evidence. In such cases the Court of Appeal and virtually all judges take the view that as jurors have their own memories, which they can reflect upon, there is no need for any memory expert advice. Our article shows them to be wrong.

Finally, there are the Fantasists. There is not a shred of credible scientific evidence in support of their creative thoughts about memory. These beliefs can only be viewed as what they are, an enjoyable flight of fancy. What is troubling to us, and what might trouble you too, is that the distance between the Zealots and Fantasists is much less than one might suppose.

Martin A. Conway

City University

Catriona M. Morrison

Lucy V. Justice

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Alien Abductions Letter 12/2015

<http://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/volume-28/october-2015/close-encounters-psychological-kind>

Close encounters of the psychological kind

Christopher C. French considers explanations of UFO sightings, alien encounters and even abductions.

Important Note on Reports of Persecution

Reports of mind control methods, espionage operations, and spiritual or psychic experiences not in the clinician's experience should not be the basis for a diagnosis of Schizophrenia, since; a) most clinicians are not authorities on these complex subjects, b) some abusers program bizarre beliefs (e.g., alien abduction) in victims to make them feel and appear non-credible or insane, and, c) Extreme posttraumatic stress from ritual abuse or trauma-based mind control can cause irrational fears and beliefs, especially if victims socially isolate and/or obtain information from unreliable sources, and, in severe cases, can result in acute or chronic traumatic stress reactive psychosis.

Lacter, E. P. & Lehmann, K. (2008). Guidelines to Differential Diagnosis between Schizophrenia and Ritual Abuse / Mind Control Traumatic Stress. In Noblitt, Randy & Noblitt, Pamela Perskin (Eds): *Ritual Abuse in the 21st Century*. Robert D. Reed Publishers: Bandon, Oregon.

<https://endritualabuse.org/coerced-under-torture/>

A discourse of disbelief?

US clinical psychologist Dr Ellen Lacter (who runs the website endritualabuse.org) warns mental health professionals not to dismiss reports of persecution and unusual beliefs, since 'some abusers program bizarre beliefs (e.g. alien abduction) in victims to make them feel non-credible and appear insane' (Lacter & Lehmann, 2008). It is therefore disconcerting that Professor Christopher French ('Close encounters of the psychological kind', October 2015) does not mention the possibility that neglect, abuse and torture by primary carers in the first five years of a child's life can comprehensively account for the 'findings' he proffers.

Survivors of extreme abuse are bound to struggle with the DRM (Deese-Roediger-McDermott) 'false memory' procedure that French mentions, and naturally report more dissociative symptoms. The Somatoform Dissociations Questionnaire (SDQ) features items such as 'I cannot see for a while (as if I am blind)' and 'I cannot hear for a while (as if I am deaf)' (Van der Hart et al., 2006). Mental health professionals need to get to grips with such disclosures and recognise them as indicators of likely neglect and/or abuse by primary carers in early childhood.

Then consider memory amnesia, one of the five key indicators of dissociative identity disorder (formerly known as multiple personality disorder). This can manifest itself in 'lost time', biographical memory wipe-out and everyday memory problems. The MMPI2 'faking bad' scale may be elevated when those with dissociative symptoms truthfully report memory issues. Clients may express worry about everyday memory issues, and poorer performance on memory task would logically follow. Dorahy et al.



Psychologists need to be sceptical of the sceptics

(2014) comprehensively debunk a lot of the 'false memory' claims that abound – helping to claw back the territory originally marked out by Pierre Janet's pioneering work on trauma a century ago.

Beliefs of having experienced alien contact without being actually able to remember details fit the various extreme child abuse scenarios described in Miller (2012), where children are tortured to 'breaking-point' and start splitting off alters who carry sensory memories that are not consciously processed and may be gradually released years later when the brain considers it safe(er) to do so. 'Missing time' experiences are typical when it comes to torture by extreme abuse groups. And taking Professor French's favoured explanation of sleep paralysis, a plausible causal account of this phenomenon suggests a dissociative process that is closely linked to past cultural and personal experiences such as sexual abuse (see tinyurl.com/qzkmvvaq).

Poor practices by over-zealous

therapists can potentially induce 'false memories'. However, in their Extreme Abuse Survey Becker et al. (2008) found that more than half of the individuals responding had specific abuse memories before commencing therapy. Proponents of the 'Discourse of Disbelief' tend to ignore evidence that does not fit their worldview, and dismiss out of hand any disclosures of extreme abuse (see <https://uk.linkedin.com/pub/rainer-kurz/0/b14/4a0>).

As a volunteer advocate for sexual abuse victims I have been bearing witness to disclosures of extreme abuse, toddler rapes, missing babies and violent deaths. I firmly believe that practising psychologists need to be sceptical of the sceptics and help unveil (rather than obfuscate) the truth about extreme abuse groups and their cancerous impact on society.

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Science & Practice Convener of the BPS
Division of Occupational Psychology
Member of the BPS Committee on Test
Standards
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Rainer_Kurz2

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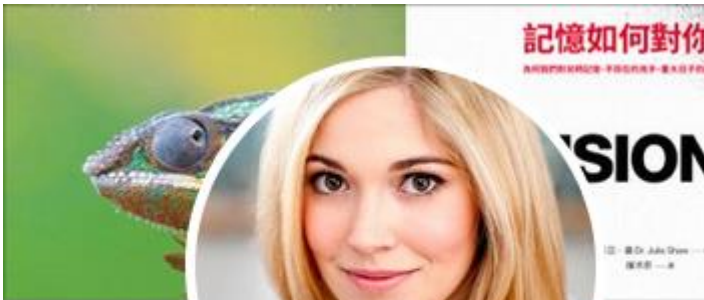
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V Media Spin

<http://www.theguardian.com/science/2014/nov/18/satanic-child-abuse-false-memories-scotland>

Satanic child abuse claims are almost certainly based on false memories
Chris French

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/false-memory-of-sex-abuse-can-be-inspired-by-police-pjj9vjlm>



Dr Julia Shaw ✓

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📍 London, England

?!?

'In fact, there is a consensus among scientists studying memory that traumatic events are more likely to be remembered than forgotten, often leading to posttraumatic stress disorder.'



<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/fresh-doubt-over-heath-sex-inquiry-rx7cpzptw>

THE  TIMES

SUB

Fresh doubt over Heath sex inquiry

An email links the chief constable heading the paedophilia investigation to a man convicted over false abuse accusations

James Gillespie |
Rosie Waterhouse | Tom Harper

September 24 2017, 12:01am,
The Sunday Times



<https://butlincat.blogspot.co.uk/2017/09/hollie-greig-case-robert-green.html>

Private Eye Thank you

OLD NICK KNACKERED

INSPECTOR Knacker has paid a reported £100,000 each to former army chief Lord Bramall and to Lady Brittan, widow of former home secretary Lord Brittan, to atone for the Met's bungled £2.5m investigation into an alleged Westminster paedophile ring, based on the sole evidence of a complainant known as "Nick" – whom retired judge Sir Richard Henriques found to be a fantasist (see *Eyes passim*).

Meanwhile, however, former prime minister Sir Edward "Grocer" Heath still stands accused of being part of a Satanic cult which ritually sacrificed 16 babies and children, allegations being investigated by Wiltshire Police's Operation Conifer. The notion of Grocer Heath as a murderous Satanic paedophile has been freely bandied around the Internet, not least by David Icke. But these ravings are now turning up in more apparently respectable forums.

The *Eye* has been alerted to an article that appeared last year in the peer-reviewed *European Psychiatry*, the official journal of the European Psychiatric Association, titled "The Satanist Cult of Ted Heath: Ethical Implications of Authority Compromise". It was based on a conference paper delivered at the 24th European Congress of Psychiatry in Madrid by Dr Rainer Kurz, a chartered occupational psychologist.

Kurz states the Satanic Grocer scenario as fact to an audience of mainstream psychiatrists and in a peer-reviewed journal – which makes one wonder what respect his peers have for corroborative evidence. The main source he cites is an Essex body-builder called Chris Spivey, who also believes that the murder of Lee Rigby was a government-organised hoax. Of Spivey's online post naming 235 supposed members of Heath's satanic cult, Kurz writes: "No indications were found that would throw the veracity of the document into doubt." Worthy of Inspector Knacker himself, who announced that "Nick's" stories were "credible and true" – before they turned out to be, er, nothing of the sort.

Letter to the Editor

9th September 2017

Hi Folks

I feel honoured to grace a page of your illustrious publication. My poster 'THE SATANIST CULT OF TED HEATH: ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF AUTHORITY COMPROMISE' clearly describes the suspected origin of the inadvertent leak: 'The document appears to be based on disclosures made by a female with Dissociative Identity Disorder (formerly known as Multiple Personality Disorder) from 1997 to 2008 to a Psychiatrist who has dealt with extreme abuse survivors since about 1987 and by 4 informers.' The author was (correctly) identified by SAFF (possibly more closely aligned to your ideology) who – as a secondary leak – redacted some content (sensibly) and added partisan 'Discourse of Disbelief' commentary. I may be overly sensitive but I find accounts of ideology-driven 'Forced Suicide', 'Unregistered Babies' and 'Rape/Murder' offenses corroborated by mainstream media disconcerting.

I wonder whether your esteemed readership could cast their critical eye over a document that can be downloaded from the URL below (which was incorporated in the poster to illustrate the context of my investigation):

<https://arsoninformer.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/suspected-arson-murder.pdf>

A godmother was found in her burnt out home 'on top of roof tiles' with 'broken legs and arm' 8 months before her toddler godchild got sexually assaulted and 'smuggled' into Forced Adoption. Am I overly worried that there may have been foul play (especially as local, regional and national authority representatives including Operation Midland refused to reinvestigate the 'Open Verdict' case)?

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