



CON AMORE
Center on Autobiographical
Memory Research



Autobiographical Memory in Ageing and Dementia

Programme

Aarhus University
27-28 September 2022

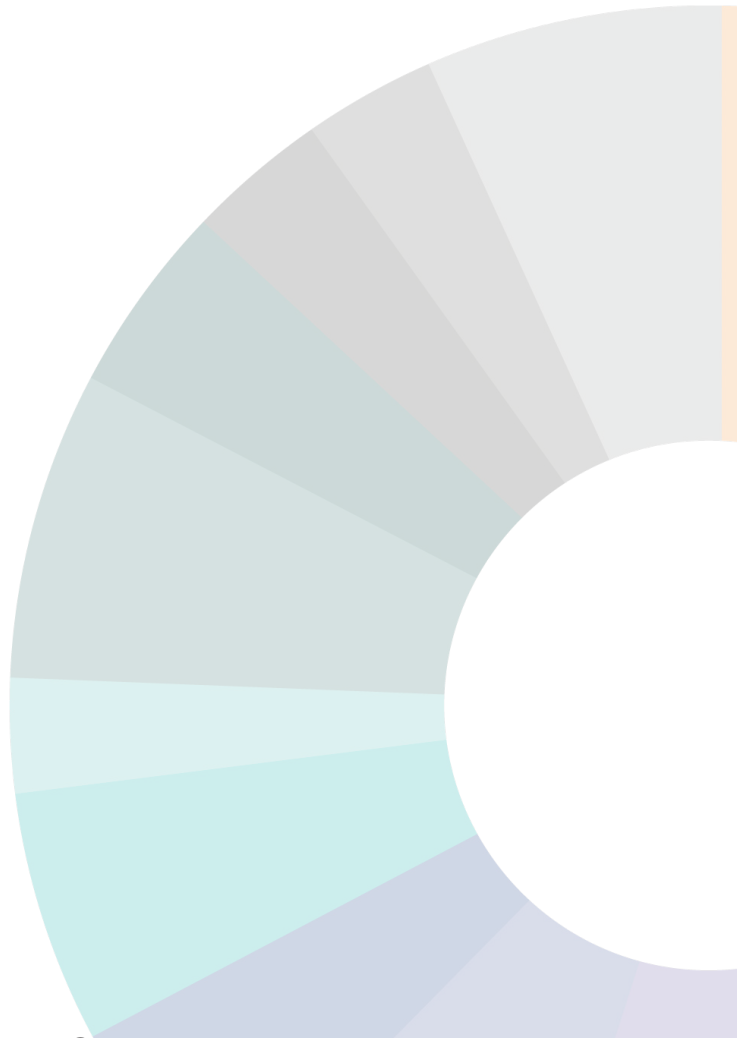
Conference venue:

Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS)
Høegh-Guldbergs Gade 6B
DK - 8000 Aarhus C



CON AMORE – CENTER ON
AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL MEMORY RESEARCH
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES
AARHUS UNIVERSITY





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Welcome to Aarhus

DEAR CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT

We are very happy to host this international conference bringing together many different perspectives on Autobiographical Memory in Ageing and Dementia. We look forward to some stimulating and thought provoking days.

It is well known that autobiographical memory changes as we age, and dramatically so in the case of dementia. Age-related changes in autobiographical memory have been studied from a multitude of perspectives, including neuropsychological, social, lifespan developmental, cultural and clinical perspectives. This research has identified a number of interesting phenomena, but often with little communication between the different fields. For example, there is a long-standing debate in neuropsychology as to whether retrograde amnesia in dementia spares older memories of autobiographical events. This literature has been little integrated with the literature on the reminiscence bump (a preponderance of memories from adolescence and young adulthood in healthy older adults) identified in life span developmental research on memory. Another important topic of research is life story and identity in people with dementia compared with healthy older adults. In addition to their theoretical relevance, many of these questions have important practical implications.

We believe there is a need to bring together researchers with different backgrounds and

explore a variety of perspectives on these issues in order to bridge some of the gaps in the literature and increase communication between fields.

At this conference, some of the most outstanding researchers and scholars present their key findings and particular perspective on the conference topic. In addition, we have two poster sessions (one on each conference day) in which excellent researchers from more than 15 different countries present their most recent and exciting findings concerning autobiographical memory. We encourage everyone to attend the poster sessions and engage in the discussions.

We recognize that there are many conferences in the world, and that we are privileged to have you here. Thank you for coming to Aarhus. We hope you will enjoy your stay.

THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Dorthe Berntsen
Tine Bennedsen Gehrt
Heidi Eskegaard Jensen
Daniel Munkholm Møller
Kirsten Pedersen
Katrine Willemoes Rasmussen
Sinué Salgado

Photo: David C. Rubin

The conference is hosted by Center on Autobiographical Memory Research (CON AMORE), and received funding from Velux Fonden.

About the programme

Programme

The conference programme consists of eight keynote presentations, two invited speeches and two poster sessions. Each keynote presentation reviews and discusses findings in a particular area of the conference theme. A 60 minute time slot is scheduled for each keynote presentation, including 15-20 minutes for discussion. Keynote presenters are kindly asked to leave time for discussion.

Poster sessions

The poster sessions are scheduled after lunch Tuesday and Wednesday. There will be refreshments available during the poster sessions.

In order to allow plenty of time to discuss the posters with the presenters, the poster sessions are scheduled for one and a half hours. Poster presenters are expected to be present at their poster during the scheduled session. The posters can be displayed from morning to evening during the day of their session.

Conference dinner

If you have signed up for the conference dinner, it will be indicated on your nametag. The nametag will serve as a ticket for the conference dinner.

The dinner will take place Tuesday, 27 September 2022 from 19.00 – 22.00 at:

Kemisk
Building 1513
Langelandsgade 138
8000 Aarhus C

Help to find your way around Campus and Aarhus on the last page in this programme.



Programme **overview**

Tuesday, 27 September 2022

08.15 – 09.00

Registration and coffee

09.00 – 10.00

Keynote speech & welcome

Dorthe Berntsen, Aarhus University

The Reminiscence Bump and Involuntary
Autobiographical Memories in Aging and
Dementia

10.00 – 11.00

Keynote speech

Asaf Gilboa, University of Toronto

Has the Notion of Systems Consolidation
Outlived its Usefulness? A Representational
Account of Interactive Memory Dynamics

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 – 12.30

Keynote speech

Michael D. Kopelman, King's College London

Retrograde Amnesia in Alzheimer Dementia:
The Temporal Gradient and the
Reminiscence Bump

12.30 – 13.30

Lunch

13.30 – 15.00

Poster session I and coffee

15.00 – 16.00

Keynote speech

David C. Rubin, Duke University

A Brief History of the Bump

16.00 – 17.00

Keynote speech

David Pillemer, University of New Hampshire

The Shape of Autobiographical Memory: Age
Distributions of Personal Memories and Life
Story Chapters Across the Lifespan

19.00

Conference dinner at Kemisk, Langelands-
gade 138, Building 1513, 8000 Aarhus C

Wednesday, 28 September 2022

09.00 – 10.00

Keynote speech

Muireann Irish, University of Sydney

Rethinking the Nature of Autobiographical
Memory – Lessons From Semantic Dementia

10.00 – 11.00

Keynote speech

Mohamad El Haj, University of Nantes

The Diminished Autobiographical Memory
in Alzheimer's Disease, From Theoretical
Standpoint to Clinical Implications

11.00 - 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 – 12.30

Invited speeches

Katrine W. Rasmussen, Aarhus University

Remembering a Life: Open-Ended Life
Stories and the Cultural Life Script in
Alzheimer's Disease

Sinué Salgado, Aarhus University

The Effects of the Environment on Arousal
Level and Cognitive Engagement in People
With Dementia

12.30 – 13.30

Lunch

13.30 – 15.00

Poster session II and coffee

15.00 – 16.00

Keynote speech

Susan Bluck, University of Florida

It's About Time: Recalling our Lived
Experience as we Age

16.00 – 16.30

Panel discussion

16.30

Goodbye

Keynote presentations



Susan Bluck

University of Florida, United States

It's About Time: Recalling our Lived Experience as We Age

Autobiographical memory is intimately linked with time. It involves looking back from wherever we stand in the lifespan, recalling past experiences – from childhood until today. If not disrupted by disease, the experience of 'being me over time' grows in tandem with chronological age. I review psychosocial functions of autobiographical memory foundational for humans to navigate their world. The central focus of the talk, however, is how individuals interpret and contextualize autobiographical memories to fulfill larger human strivings and motivations. That is, autobiographical memory also involves autobiographical reasoning about events that have occurred days or decades ago. I provide empirical examples of how individuals create meaning, express purpose, find redemption, savor wisdom and reveal virtues - as they recall life experiences across adulthood. As such, though remembering our personal past serves basic functions it also allows for a deep, textured experience of who we are and where we have been. The talk closes with illustrations of how reminiscence techniques can be used with older persons in applied settings.



Mohamad El Haj

University of Nantes, France

Geriatric unit, Tourcoing Hospital, France

The Diminished Autobiographical Memory in Alzheimer's Disease, From Theoretical Standpoint to Clinical Implications

While autobiographical memory errors occur in everyone's daily life, they are much more prevalent in patients with Alzheimer's disease. Patients and their family members are constantly affected by the decline of autobiographical memory. While some autobiographical errors may be, somehow, benign (e.g., when a patient forgets the name of her/his city of birth, others seriously affect the sense of self and identity in the advanced stages of the disease (e.g., a patient's difficulty to answer the basic question: "who am I?").

Based on fundamental literature, we provide a comprehensive view regarding the characteristics of decline of autobiographical memory in patients with Alzheimer's disease (e.g., the patients' difficulties to retrieve and reexperience specific memories). Based on clinical and experimental research, we also describe some strategies that can be implemented to alleviate, to some extent, decline in autobiographical memory in patients with mild Alzheimer's disease.



Asaf Gilboa

Rotman Research Institute at Baycrest Health Sciences
Psychology Department, University of Toronto, Canada
Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, University Health Network,
Canada

Has the Notion of Systems Consolidation Outlived its Usefulness? A Representational Account of Interactive Memory Dynamics

Standard systems consolidation theories posit an obligatory, time-limited, role for the hippocampus before declarative memory can be cortically represented independently of the hippocampus. In this talk I will suggest that instead, events create changes to neural representations across multiple memory systems right from the outset. Different event representations co-exist, influence and modify each other and are differentially expressed depending on factors such as relevance to current goals, attention, context specificity or relatedness to prior knowledge. There is no unidirectional time-dependent biological process of memory trace transformation or migration, only interactively modulated synaptic consolidation and re-consolidation processes at multiple levels. Because hippocampal memories are so dominant early on, and because memory tasks emphasize detailed event-specific memories, expressions of cortical representations at short delays are rarely observed. Differences in the dynamics of memory expression are mistaken for a process of systems consolidation. I will discuss the relevance of this model to patterns of acquisition, retention, expression and loss of autobiographical memories across the lifespan and in pathologies of memory.



Muireann Irish

University of Sydney, Australia

Rethinking the Nature of Autobiographical Memory – Lessons From Semantic Dementia

The syndrome of semantic dementia offers compelling insights into the neurocognitive architecture of autobiographical memory, allowing us to glimpse the effects of semantic memory loss on retrieval of the personal past. More recently, studies exploring the capacity for future thinking in semantic dementia indicate that semantic memory also plays an important role in scaffolding the construction of novel events. In this talk, I will present an overview of our work to date revealing how the progressive degeneration of semantic memory disrupts the capacity for autobiographical retrieval from the past, as well as the ability to envisage the future. In doing so, I hope to highlight the ways in which episodic and semantic representations likely interact in the service of complex expressions of cognition, as well as considering what it might be like to lose these uniquely human functions.



Michael D. Kopelman

King's College London, United Kingdom

Retrograde Amnesia in Alzheimer Dementia: The Temporal Gradient and the Reminiscence Bump

This talk with review findings and theories regarding the nature of retrograde amnesia in Alzheimer dementia (AD) and other forms of brain disease. Current theories make differing predictions about whether there will be sparing of early memories (a 'temporal gradient') in episodic and semantic memory in brain damage and dementia. Research into this topic has produced inconsistent findings, which partly relates to the different types of test employed in the various studies. Despite some modification of earlier theories, these issues have remained unresolved. Separately, investigations of healthy (and depressed) participants have frequently established the presence of a 'reminiscence bump' in autobiographical memory retrieval, as discussed elsewhere in this symposium; and reviews of the literature in RA suggested that this might be pertinent to the occurrence of a temporal gradient in brain disease. Findings from a study investigating these phenomena in AD will be presented, and their implications will be considered.



David Pillemer

University of New Hampshire, United States

**The Shape of Autobiographical Memory:
Age Distributions of Personal Memories and Life Story Chapters Across the
Lifespan**

I will present, synthesize and critique research examining age distributions of personal memories and life story chapters elicited by directed memory probes and revealed in spoken oral histories. Age-related memory patterns are evident not only in studies of the reminiscence bump that target late adolescence and early adulthood, but also in studies examining other lifetime periods that have received comparatively little scientific attention. Research shows how memory age distributions vary as a function of emotional valence, perceived control and especially transitional status. More broadly, evidence suggests that temporal landmarks are key components of autobiographical memory organization and representations of self. I conclude by discussing potential implications for understanding memory decline in old age and dementia.



David C. Rubin

Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Duke University, United States
Center on Autobiographical Memory Research, Department of Psychology,
Aarhus University, Denmark

A Brief History of the Bump

I will review the history of the bump as a precise mathematical description of a highly replicable, real world memory phenomenon. We noticed the bump in data we had and were trying to understand as a deviation from retention functions, which usually decrease. We then collected data from other researchers and found that it was a general occurrence. We described it simply as what was left when we subtracted two precise and theoretically better-understood components: the retention function for autobiographical memories and childhood amnesia.

In contrast to its empirical robustness, the bump is still in search of a theoretical explanation. Like most other real world phenomena, it may always require a combination of theoretical explanations. This is especially true for the bump as it has been included in studies using different cuing and retrieval methods, participant populations, analysis techniques, and theoretical goals.

Future expectations are considered.



Dorthe Berntsen

Center on Autobiographical Memory Research, Department of Psychology,
Aarhus University, Denmark

**The Reminiscence Bump and Involuntary Autobiographical Memories in
Aging and Dementia**

Research on autobiographical memory has a lot to offer to the understanding of memory in aging and dementia. However, several perspectives have been understudied, which motivates this conference. One example is the preservation of the reminiscence bump in dementia together with maintenance of semantic knowledge of cultural life scripts. I review evidence and discuss implications for theories of retrograde amnesia. Another example is involuntary autobiographical memories—that is, memories of events that arise spontaneously in response to situational cues. Recent findings suggest that such memories are less affected by aging than memories retrieved deliberately and that they can be used to facilitate autobiographical remembering in dementia. For this strategy to be effective, the memory cues should address the best-preserved memories in dementia, which appears to be events from childhood and young adulthood (the period of the bump). I review studies successfully pursuing this strategy and discuss their implications.

Invited **speeches**

Katrine W. Rasmussen

Center on Autobiographical Memory Research, Department of Psychology,
Aarhus University, Denmark

Remembering a Life: Open-Ended Life Stories and the Cultural Life Script in Alzheimer's Disease

Autobiographical memory deficits are one of the most prominent symptoms in Alzheimer's disease (AD). Yet, life narratives of AD patients are scarcely examined. In this talk, I will present research examining aspects of narrative identity in AD, including narrative coherence, emotional tone, and the distribution of memories across the lifespan. The preservation of a reminiscence bump for life story memories in AD will be discussed with reference to recent work examining cultural life script knowledge in this population. Cultural life scripts refer to culturally shared semantic knowledge concerning the order and timing of major transitional life events that help structure recall from autobiographical memory. The results indicate that some components of the cultural life script are especially vulnerable to cognitive decline. The implications of these findings are discussed in relation to patients' ability to access important events from their personal past and to organize these events into a coherent narrative.

Sinué Salgado

Center on Autobiographical Memory Research, Department of Psychology,
Aarhus University, Denmark

The Effects of the Environment on Arousal Level and Cognitive Engagement in People With Dementia

Autobiographical memory (AM) refers to the recollection of personal events in one's own life, and plays a fundamental role in psychological well-being. However, AM is impaired early in the course of Alzheimer's disease (AD). The present study examines the effects of immersion into a historically authentic 1950s museum environment that reconstructs the material and cultural context of the participants' youth compared with a modern 2010s environment. Thirty-two older adults diagnosed with AD participated in semi-structured memory conversations in the 1950s versus 2010s environment. We examined how physiological markers of arousal and coding of positive affect vary as AD patients reminisce of their life in these different settings. The findings showed increased levels of arousal and positive affect in the 1950s setting compared with the modern setting. Our results suggest that patients benefited from sensory rich and specific recognizable cues from the museum-setting, which influenced their engagement and arousal level positively.



Overview of poster session I

Tuesday 27 September 13.30 – 15.00

Social, collective, and cultural aspects of autobiographical memory I

- 101 A vicarious reminiscence bump: Older adults' memories of their children's lives. [Ozdemir, Leichtman, & Pillemer](#)
- 102 Emotional language use in vicarious and personal memory for older and younger adults. [Steiner & Andries](#)
- 103 Where we come from: Family stories about the war serve individual and collective functions. [Cordonnier](#)
- 104 Gender differences in adults' intergenerational narratives. [Kemper, Leidenberger, & Habermas](#)
- 105 Age-related changes in vicarious memories. [Bakir-Demir, Reese, Sahin-Acar, & Taumoepeau](#)

Functions of autobiographical memory

- 106 Personal and scripted events varied in memory functions and characteristics. [Ay & Gülgöz](#)
- 107 When remembering hurts: Autobiographical memory and grief across adulthood. [Wolf & Bluck](#)
- 108 Comparing phenomenological and functional characteristics of young adults' exciting memories with their positive and negative memories. [Elibol-Pekaslan, Varol, & Kara](#)
- 109 Reminiscing about the past with others in everyday life: A naturalistic observation study of young and older adults. [Demiray & Ferrario](#)

Emotional memories

- 110 Does age at trauma matter? The relationship between age and PTSD-symptoms. [Kongshøj, Bohn, & Berntsen](#)
- 111 Can perceived changes in autobiographical memories' emotionality be explained by memory characteristics and personality traits? [Hoehne](#)
- 112 Autobiographical memories of envy: Exploring childhood, adolescent, and adult recollections. [Santarossa & Pullin](#)
- 113 Autobiographical memories of anger and shame over the lifespan. [Young & Pullin](#)
- 114 Memories of childhood and adult play: Effects of nostalgia on play attitudes and purchase intent. [Zaragoza Scherman, Salgado, Zosh, Bluck, & Berntsen](#)

Autobiographical memory across the life span

- 115 Coherence of child maltreatment narratives by emerging adults: How does child maltreatment affect how we share our story? [Fishere & Habermas](#)
- 116 To ask or not to ask: Strategic recall, but not spontaneous recall, decreases by the passage of time in 46-month-olds' memory of a unique event. [Sonne, Jensen, Kingo, Berntsen, & Krøjgaard](#)
- 117 Comparing deferred imitation and joint attentional activities in 6- 8- 10- and 12-month-old infants. [Beyer, Kingo, Sonne, & Krøjgaard](#)
- 118 Remembering dynamic events in infancy: Manipulating the amount of encoding. [Gaini, Sonne, Krøjgaard, & Kingo](#)

Covid-19 and autobiographical memory

- 119 Maintaining intimacy during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Wolf & Nusser](#)
- 120 False memory in the COVID-19 outbreak: The effects of pandemic-related stress and negative emotions. [Güçlü & Öner](#)
- 121 Age differences in remembering the pandemic: Findings from 15 countries. [Öner & Watson](#)
- 122 Spontaneous past and future thinking about the COVID-19 pandemic across 14 countries: Effects of individual and country-level COVID-19 impact indicators. [Watson, Cole, Markostamou, Barzykowski, Ergen, Taylor, & Öner](#)

Mental time travel and future thinking

- 123 Looking back to the future: Effect of future thinking perspective on characteristics of autobiographical future events. [Roderer, Watson, & Bohn](#)
- 124 The effect of nostalgic music on future thinking. [Matsumoto, Zenmoto, & Ito](#)
- 125 Personal goal characteristics predict the occurrence of imagined future events. [Jimenez & D'Argembeau](#)
- 126 Emotional closure in autobiographical memories: Investigating future events for resolve. [Ergen & Gülgöz](#)
- 127 Past and future life story chapters among individuals with an increased suicide risk: An empirical study. [Hansen, Thomsen, Jensen, Pedersen, & Bøye](#)
- 128 The relationship between episodic future thinking and biased retelling characteristics. [Ikeda, Kawasaki, Sato, & Nishiura](#)

Overview of poster session II

Wednesday 28 September 13.30 – 15.00

Social, collective, and cultural aspects of autobiographical memory II

- 201 Age effects in imaging past and future collective events. [Öner & Gülgöz](#)
- 202 Historical change in the Emirati life script. [Camia, Alhallami, Alhattali, Alhosani, & Bohn](#)
- 203 How do we learn the cultural life script? [Koppel](#)
- 204 The days we never forget: Flashbulb memories across the lifespan in patients with Alzheimer's disease. [Rasmussen, Kirk, Overgaard, & Berntsen](#)

Cueing and retrieval processes

- 205 Direct and generative autobiographical memory retrieval in mild cognitive impairment. [Markostamou & Kvavilashvili](#)
- 206 Beyond amnesia, understanding intrusive memories in Alzheimer's disease. [Allé & Antoine](#)
- 207 Clinical investigations of music-evoked autobiographical memories: A systematic review. [Kaiser & Berntsen](#)
- 208 Cued autobiographical memory recall is less taxing and enhances cognitive reappraisal in older relative to younger adults. [Orlovsky, Heideman, Hareli, Wood, Patel, & Martins-Klein](#)

Narrative and linguistic style

- 209 Interpersonal memory fidelity judgments regarding autobiographical narratives in young and older participants. [Bastin](#)
- 210 Autobiographical memory and storytelling style in older and younger adults. [Rathbone & Carver](#)
- 211 The fixed nature of 'narrative crystals'. [Gerstenberg & Hamilton](#)
- 212 Predicting the effect of life narratives on readers by narrators' linguistic style. [Martin & Habermas](#)
- 213 How do linguistic and thematic repetitions in autobiographical narratives differ between elderly adults with depression, Alzheimer disease, and healthy controls? [Habermas, Gruler, Jaeschke, Rapp, Weygandt, & Frisch](#)

Self, identity, and meaning-making

- 214 Variations in cognitive status in older adults with memory difficulties: The roles of trait personality and resilience. [Barbour, Lind, & Bluck](#)
- 215 Erikson's psychosocial stages in important autobiographical memories: Associations with life periods and life satisfaction. [Nusser, Zimprich, & Wolf](#)
- 216 Impact of Alzheimer dementia and depression on narrative identity: Coherence and distribution of memories across the lifespan in life narratives of elderly adults. [Gruler, Weygandt, Jaeschke, Rapp, Frisch, & Habermas](#)
- 20 [Jaeschke, Rapp, Frisch, & Habermas](#)

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- 217 Does the connection of one's conceptual self and life-events differ between elderly people with depression, Alzheimer- disease and healthy controls throughout autobiographical memories? [Rapp, Jaeschke, Gruler, Weygandt, Frisch, & Habermas](#)
- 218 Engendering change or creating stability? How older adults deal with biographical ruptures. [Peters & Habermas](#)
- 219 Neural mechanisms of late-life autobiographical reappraisal through dedifferentiation: A proposed framework and fMRI pilot findings. [Martins-Klein, Orlovsky, & Heideman](#)

Reminiscence interventions

- 220 Activation of memory through storytelling, songs and dance music for the severely demented. [Madsen & Dickmeiss](#)
- 221 Digital life story books to preserve the self and improve well-being in dementia. [Lind & Bluck](#)
- 222 Scaffolding autobiographical memory: Can elaborative reminiscing enhance recall of people receiving aged care? [Harris, Van Bergen, Strutt, Picard, Brookman, & Nelson](#)
- 223 Social relational elements of autobiographical memory among older adults and persons with dementia. [Robbins](#)

Phenomenological qualities of autobiographical memory

- 224 Remembering well and feeling well? Are individual differences in autobiographical memory associated with subjective well-being? [Gehrt, Nielsen, Hoyle, Rubin, & Berntsen](#)
- 225 Richer phenomenology of memories central to identity: The indirect effects of rehearsal. [Pociunaite & Zimprich](#)
- 226 Age and immediate recall using a self-report mental reinstatement procedure for eyewitnesses. [Faber, Nielsen, & Berntsen](#)
- 227 Tattoos embody autobiographical memories. [Klug & Camia](#)
- 228 Individual differences in autobiographical memory and creativity. [Cardenas & Berntsen](#)

Poster session I - Abstracts

Tuesday 27 September 13:30-15:00

Social, collective, and cultural aspects of autobiographical memory I

101 **A vicarious reminiscence bump: Older adults' memories of their children's lives**

Caglayan Ozdemir, Michelle Leichtman and David Pillemer

University of New Hampshire, United States

Contact information: caglayan.ozdemir@unh.edu

Vicarious memories are one's recollections of specific life events that are experienced by other people, at which one was not present. We investigated middle-aged and older adults' (N = 147, age range 55-87) vicarious memories of their children's lives, which children had recounted to their parents, and compared these to autobiographical memories participants had recounted to their children. Age distributions for both memory types produced robust reminiscence bumps. Themes of both memory types frequently portrayed positive, important, yet frequently idiosyncratic (unscripted) life events. Comparisons between vicarious and autobiographical memory qualities (e.g., valence, importance, functions) indicated strikingly similar patterns, replicating some previous studies of vicarious memories in other contexts. Participants also completed scales measuring their subjective well-being and relationship closeness to their children; both measures were significantly correlated with memory qualities.

102 **Emotional language use in vicarious and personal memory for older and younger adults**

Kristina Steiner and Maggie Andries

Denison University, United States

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Differences exist in the way older adults describe personal memories; positive personal memories have higher levels of sensory details than negative. Older adults also use more positive words than younger adults, especially when writing about neutral memories. However, these studies focused on personally experienced events, and the positivity bias can disappear when evaluating memories of others, of counterfactual events, and of public events (e.g. Abel & Berntsen, 2020; Özbek et al. 2020). This poster presents research comparing the emotional language use of older adults to college students writing about positive/negative personal/vicarious memories. 277 participants (150 community dwelling older adults) provided one of each memory and valence type, and we used a linguistic analysis software to investigate differences in positive and negative emotion-word usage. We also coded the thematic content of the 1,108 memories to compare between age groups. The study highlights the role of vicarious memories in older adults' lives.

103 **Where we come from: Family stories about the war serve individual and collective functions**

Aline Cordonnier

UCLouvain, Belgium

Contact information: aline.cordonnier@uclouvain.be

As people age, they tend to share their personal past with their children and grandchildren. While prior research has usually focused on the function of autobiographical memories for the individual, we wanted to examine the role of these family stories for the following generations, both at a personal and collective level. In our study, we interviewed three generations with an ancestor who resisted or collaborated during the Second World War. Participants discussed why it was important for them to know and transmit their family stories. We coded their answers as serving personal or collective functions, and within these two categories, functions were coded as self, social and directive. Results showed that these war-related family stories tended to serve functions for the self and for social relationships at the individual level, and more directive functions at the collective level. Resistance-related stories had a more collective role than stories of the collaboration.

104 **Gender differences in adults' intergenerational narratives**

Nina Friederike Kemper, Anne-Lena Leidenberger and Tilmann Habermas

Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Contact information: kemper@psych.uni-frankfurt.de

One way to preserve autobiographical memories is to pass them on to family members. We examined gender differences in such vicarious memories in a sample of N=135 adults (20-73 years, 52.6% female). Interviews were conducted as part of the 4th wave of the longitudinal MainLife study. We asked participants to tell a story from their mother's life that she had told them, and likewise a story from their father's life that he had told them. They were then rated by two independent judges for emotional tone, agency, and family content. Overall, 97% of the participants could tell a story from their mother's life, but only 88% from their father's life. We found mothers' stories to be more negative, less agentic, and to contain more family content compared to fathers' stories, regardless of participants' gender or age. Results are discussed with respect to parent-ing roles and functions of intergenerational memory.

105 **Age-related changes in vicarious memories**

Tugce Bakir-Demir^a, Elaine Reese^a, Basak Sahin-Acar^b and Mele Taumoepeau^a

^aUniversity of Otago, New Zealand

^bMiddle East Technical University, Turkey

Contact information: tugce.bakirdemir@otago.ac.nz

This study investigated young, middle-aged, and older adults' vicarious family stories across cultures. In Sample 1, 216 Turkish participants wrote their vicarious stories. In Sample 2, 294 Turkish participants narrated their spoken vicarious stories. In Sample 3, 79 New Zealand women wrote their vicarious stories. Across three samples, affective tone of the stories did not vary as a function of age. In Sample 1 and 2, increased age was related to lower thematic coherence in Turkish stories. However, we did not replicate this finding in NZ. With regards to subjective perspectives, in Sample 2 (spoken stories in TR, as the age increased, the number of subjective perspective terms decreased. However, in Sample 1 and 3 (written stories, we also did not replicate this finding. In future studies, it should be important to delve more into the role of culture and memory elicitation methods while examining age-related changes in vicarious memories.

Functions of autobiographical memory

106 **Personal and scripted events varied in memory functions and characteristics**

Demet Ay and Sami Gülgöz

Koç University, Turkey

Contact information: day17@ku.edu.tr

Recollecting memories from the personal past serves four functions: self-continuity, social bonding, guiding behavior, and future prediction. Activating general events (i.e., scripted events, not personally experienced) may also serve similar functions. How often people recall personal and scripted events to serve the given functions, as well as their phenomenological characteristics are yet to be investigated. This study explores the predictors of personal and scripted events. We asked participants to produce five personal or scripted events that were positive or negative. Stepwise regression analyses on 715 events revealed that predictive and self functions explained 18% of the variance in event types (personal vs. scripted). Frequency of thinking, feeling of reliving, and event types were common predictors of all functions. However, different functions were also predicted by varying phenomenological properties like emotional intensity, valence, and frequency of talking. Results are discussed in terms of differential functions of personal and scripted events.

107 **When remembering hurts: Autobiographical memory and grief across adulthood**

Tabea Wolf^a and Susan Bluck^b

^aUlm University, Germany

^bUniversity of Florida, United States

Contact information: tabea.wolf@uni-ulm.de

Autobiographical remembering often serves adaptive functions but does not always have positive consequences. We examined autobiographical remembering in the context of having lost a loved one. The sample (N = 111 adults, 19 - 84 years) were actively grieving. Participants completed the Reminiscence Functions Scale (self-positive, self-negative, social sharing) and the Inventory of Complicated Grief. Moderated-mediation analyses revealed a direct effect of greater self-negative remembering on stronger feelings of grief. In addition, greater social sharing was related to greater grief, as mediated by self-negative remembering. Investigating aspects of self-negative remembering individually, remembering for bitterness revival, boredom reduction and intimacy maintenance (with lost other) were each associated with greater feelings of grief. The relation of social sharing to greater grief was only mediated by intimacy maintenance. Age did not moderate these effects. In the face of loss, remembering one's past can contribute to ongoing feelings of grief – irrespective of age.

108 **Comparing phenomenological and functional characteristics of young adults' exciting memories with their positive and negative memories**

Nur Elibol-Pekaslan^a, Şevval Varol^b and Demet Kara^c

^aAnkara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Turkey

^bİşık University, Turkey

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The goal of this study was to introduce exciting events to autobiographical memory literature by comparing its characteristics with other emotional memories. We collected emotionally positive, negative, and exciting memories from 144 Turkish young adults. Participants also answered follow-up questions (i.e., valence, functions, temporal distance etc. Repeated-measures ANOVAs showed differences in emotional valence, perceived temporal distance, self function (i.e., centrality and identity), and directive function (i.e., current problem solving across memories. There were no differences in frequency of recall, clarity of event, self-continuity, and future planning dimensions. The narratives will also be coded on content, emotional tone, positive-negative ending, and thematic coherence dimensions. Further analysis will be performed using these dimensions. This study will broaden our understanding of emotional memories by acknowledging the mixed nature of exciting memories. Findings will be discussed in the light of existing literature on emotional memories from a developmental perspective.

109 **Reminiscing about the past with others in everyday life: A naturalistic observation study of young and older adults**

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This study examined social reminiscence in everyday life using a naturalistic observation method: Electronically Activated Recorder (EAR). EAR is a portable audio recorder that periodically records brief snippets of ambient sounds and speech (Demiray et al., 2017). 66 young and 45 healthy older adults carried the EAR for four consecutive days. We collected a random sample of about 280 sound files (30-seconds long) per participant. Sound files that included participant-speech were coded for whether they included reminiscence and for their functions. Results showed that older adults reminisced in 5% of their utterances, whereas young did in 6.7%. The conversation function was the most frequently observed function in both age groups. Teaching/informing and identity functions also existed in both groups' reminiscence cases. Negative functions (i.e., boredom reduction, bitterness revival) were only observed in young adults. Results are discussed in relation to socioemotional goals and well-being across adulthood.

Emotional memories

110 **Does age at trauma matter? The relationship between age and PTSD-symptoms**

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Age differences in Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are widely studied, yet results remain mixed. From a memory perspective, young adults may be more vulnerable to developing PTSD following trauma than older adults because they more frequently engage in cognitive processes associated with the disorder and are developing their life story and identity. Here, 386 adults ($M_{age}=36.10$, $SD=10.63$, age range 19-72 years) nominated their most traumatic event and rated this event for PTSD-symptoms and centrality to identity. Participants were divided into groups based on whether their event occurred in youth (14-25 years of age, $N=103$) or adulthood (30+ years of age, $N=103$). Groups did not differ on PTSD-levels, but participants who experienced their trauma as adults considered their event significantly more central. However, when controlling for event type, groups no longer differed in centrality. Results are discussed in relation to PTSD-theories.

111 **Can perceived changes in autobiographical memories' emotionality be explained by memory characteristics and personality traits?**

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The emotionality associated with an event can change from event occurrence to recall. Autobiographical memories show fixed affect (i.e., no change in emotionality), fading affect (i.e., decrease in emotional intensity), flourishing affect (i.e., increase in emotional intensity), and flexible affect (i.e., change of valence). The present study examined predictors of perceived changes in autobiographical memories' positive and negative valence and intensity. Initial intensity, vividness, and social rehearsal were included on the memory-level, whereas at the individual level rumination and reflection entered the models. Analyses were based on 3950 autobiographical memories reported by 352 participants (18 - 92 years of age). Participants rated the emotionality of each memory from the perspective of event occurrence and event recall. Memory-level-predictors meaningfully distinguished between memories that stayed fixed in affect and memories that showed fading, flourishing or flexible affect. The present results highlight the importance of considering different types of autobiographical memories' emotional change.

112 **Autobiographical memories of envy: Exploring childhood, adolescent, and adult recollections**

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This research is part of a broader project exploring emotion and autobiographical memories (Pullin, Santarossa, & Young, 2022). In the present work, goals included exploring whether envy experiences changed at different life stages, with a focus on different targets of envy. We were curious as to whether we would find that people acquired cognitive and emotional tools to deal with envy over the lifespan; if they were envious of specific objects and events during different developmental stages; and whether they experienced less, or more, envy as they matured. An autobiographical framework was adopted. Open-ended interviews were analyzed via thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006). This research was submitted to the Research Ethics Board of Concordia University of Edmonton to ensure compliance with ethics norms and standards.

113 **Autobiographical memories of anger and shame over the lifespan**

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This research is part of a broader project exploring emotion and autobiographical memories (Pullin, Santarossa, & Young, 2022). In the present work, we explored women's experiences of shame associated with anger over the lifespan. We were curious as to what evokes anger at various stages of the lifespan from childhood to mature adulthood, and whether women perceived their anger as empowering or stigmatizing, therefore causing feelings of shame. More specifically, we wanted to explore whether autobiographical descriptions of internal feelings of anger and external expressions were associated with shame. An autobiographical framework was adopted. Open-ended interviews were analyzed via thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006). This research was submitted to the Research Ethics Board of Concordia University of Edmonton to ensure compliance with ethics norms and standards.

114 **Memories of childhood and adult play: Effects of nostalgia on play attitudes and purchase intent**

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Nostalgia is the bittersweet emotion sometimes experienced when remembering one's past. Research shows feelings of nostalgia can induce behavioural change. In a mixed design, with repeated measures (N = 403 adults) we examined the effect of recalling childhood and adulthood play memories, with shopping memories as a comparison condition. Participants rated nostalgia of each memory, and completed measures of play attitudes, and intent to purchase toys and games (pre- and post- recall). Childhood play memories were more nostalgic than adulthood shopping memories, but there were no other differences in nostalgia. Mixed repeated-measures ANOVA showed attitudes towards play were more favorable after recall, regardless of condition. This effect did not hold after controlling for nostalgia, emotional valence, and intensity. Purchase intent increased from pre to post only when recalling play memories, regardless of lifetime period. This effect held after controlling for nostalgia, emotional valence and emotional intensity.

Autobiographical memory across the life span

115 **Coherence of child maltreatment narratives by emerging adults: How does child maltreatment affect how we share our story?**

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Individuals narrate stories from their past to explain how they became who they are, forming their own narrative identity. Highly disruptive experiences such as child maltreatment (CM) may be challenging to integrate into the life story and even to narrate coherently just by themselves. To test these potential effects, we divided a total of 171 students at an English-speaking university in Egypt into those with a history of CM and those who had experienced none. We compared narratives of emotional childhood experiences. Narratives of CM were no less coherent than narratives of other emotional childhood experiences in the control group, but were more integrated into the life story, which in turn predicted symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The present study contributes to the literature by confirming that there is no evidence for lack of coherence among CM narratives, and by highlighting the association between centrality of event and PTSD.

116 **To ask or not to ask: Strategic recall, but not spontaneous recall, decreases by the passage of time in 46-month-olds' memory of a unique event**

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Children's ability to intentionally recall events lessens with temporal distance to the occurrence. However, little is known about the effects of retention time on memories that emerge spontaneously. We examined spontaneous and strategic retrieval in 81 46-month-olds' memory of a lab event after 1 week (the 1-week Condition) versus 43 weeks (the 43-week Condition) in a between subjects design, using well-established procedures (Krøjgaard et al., 2017). While spontaneous recall was unaffected by retention, the children's strategic recall was negatively affected by retention interval: Even though the children overall still remembered the event, the children in the 43-week Condition showed reduced recall compared to the children in the 1-week Condition. To our knowledge, this is the first study to assess spontaneous recall after such a long retention interval. The findings add to existing evidence of two modes of retrieval in early childhood and are of both theoretical and forensic relevance.

117 Comparing deferred imitation and joint attentional activities in 6- 8- 10- and 12-month-old infants

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Deferred imitation is by many considered a non-verbal proxy for event memory. Meanwhile, joint attentional activities are assumed to be necessary prerequisites to be able to encode, recall and re-enact modelled motor procedures, that is, take part in deferred imitation tasks. Most researchers assume that joint attentional activities develop from around 9 months of age. However, results from a widely cited experiment (Barr et al., 1996) show that 6-month-olds succeed in deferred imitation tasks, that is, before the needed joint attentional activities should have developed. Surprisingly, hitherto no one has examined how deferred imitation and joint attentional activities develop in the same children during infancy. The present work-in-progress PhD project aims at conducting such a study. We will examine how deferred imitation and joint attentional activities progress in 6-, 8-, 10-, and 12-month-old infants to examine when the infants succeed on the two distinct, yet related tasks.

118 Remembering dynamic events in infancy: Manipulating the amount of encoding

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The Visual Paired Comparison (VPC) paradigm is a widely used methodology for examining recognition memory in infants. Most studies using the VPC paradigm have been conducted with static pictures (e.g., faces or objects), whereas research with dynamic stimulus material is sparse. Further, little is known about the possible impact of the amount of encoding (i.e., the number of familiarizations trials) on subsequent memory. We examined 18-month-olds (N = 114) recognition memory for cartoons containing complex dynamic material (i.e., events involving agents, and a storyline) across a two-week retention interval, while manipulating the number of familiarization trials (1, 2, or 4 trials) at encoding in a between-subjects design. The results revealed that regardless of encoding trials, all groups encoded and remembered the cartoons as evidenced by a reliable familiarity preference at test. The results contribute to the current understanding of infants' recognition memory for dynamic events.

Covid-19 and autobiographical memory

119 **Maintaining intimacy during the COVID-19 pandemic**

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The present study investigated whether autobiographical memories serve to maintain feelings of intimacy in times of social isolation that result from the restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Data came from 104 younger and older adults who reported three important memories and three memories that include someone participants cannot meet because of the restrictions (social memories). We found social memories to serve intimacy functions more frequently than important memories, and this difference was more pronounced for older compared to younger adults. Moreover, social loneliness was associated with less frequent use of important memories for intimacy functions, whereas emotional loneliness showed a positive association. Results are discussed in terms of what type of memories can be used to maintain feelings of intimacy in older age as well as regarding the importance of considering the quality and quantity of loneliness separately in order to predict the use of memories for intimacy functions.

120 **False memory in the COVID-19 outbreak: The effects of pandemic-related stress and negative emotions**

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The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly changed many people's lives in the whole world. People experience a variety of stressors and unpleasant emotions throughout the outbreak. Stressful life events and negative emotions are the most significant predictors of false memory. However, there is insufficient information on the impacts of stress and negative emotions on false memory. In the present research, we investigated the role of stress and negative emotions on false memory during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants (N = 38, Age range = 22-63) completed a daily diary for the week. They indicated the two important events each day and rated their phenomenology. Then after three months, we asked about these events and examined how their phenomenology changed over time. We found that the degree of false recall was related to the amount of pandemic-related stress. Also as people aged, the decline in the phenomenology of reported memories became more salient.

121 **Age differences in remembering the pandemic: Findings from 15 countries**

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We asked over 4000 individuals from 15 countries to report the three most remarkable events that happened since the outbreak of the pandemic and three events that they expected to occur in the future (<https://osf.io/m46nq/>). Individuals indicated the events at a global and national level. First, we examined the valence of reported events and demonstrated a positivity bias for future events. Then, we investigated the role of age in the observed differences as COVID-19 constituted a more intense threat for the elderly. We found that while elderly reported more negative past events for the pandemic, no such age differences were evident for future events. Results will be discussed from a functional perspective in relation with the severity of the pandemic in each country.

122 **Spontaneous past and future thinking about the COVID-19 pandemic across 14 countries: Effects of individual and country-level COVID-19 impact indicators**

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In 2020, the world was amid a global health crisis – the COVID-19 pandemic. Nations had varying levels of morbidity and mortality and adopted different measures to prevent the spread of infection. Effects of the pandemic on spontaneous (rather than voluntary) past and future thoughts remain unexplored. Here, we report data from a multi-country online study examining how both country- and individual-level factors affect this core aspect of human cognition. Results showed that national (stringency of measures) and individual (attention to COVID-related information and worry) factors significantly predicted the frequency of people's spontaneous thoughts. Additionally, no typical positivity biases were found, as both past and future spontaneous thoughts had a negative emotional valence. This large-scale multi-national study provides novel insights towards better understanding the emergence and qualities of spontaneous past and future thoughts. Findings are discussed in terms of both the determinants and functions of spontaneous thought.

Mental time travel and future thinking

123 **Looking back to the future: Effect of future thinking perspective on characteristics of autobiographical future events**

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This study investigates the impact of two future thinking perspectives on characteristics of autobiographical future events. Usually, people imagine events that might happen in their future prospectively. Here, we manipulated the direction of future thinking by asking 142 young adults to report five autobiographical events in response to previously reported life goals either retrospectively, imagining events from the perspective of their 100-year-old self, or prospectively from the perspective of their current self. For each event, participants indicated the expected age of occurrence and rated phenomenological characteristics. Findings indicate that the future thinking perspective an individual engages in affects the content, temporal distribution, and phenomenological characteristics of autobiographical events. The results suggests that retrospective future thinking serves as a form of psychological distancing. Implications and limitations are discussed.

124 **The effect of nostalgic music on future thinking**

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While nostalgia is deeply linked to autobiographical memories, it remains unclear whether nostalgia is involved in future thinking. Since autobiographical memory and future thinking share a common knowledge base, listening to nostalgic music could promote future thinking through activation of the autobiographical knowledge base. In the present study, undergraduate students who were allocated to listening to nostalgic music ($n = 20$) and to listening to novel music ($n = 23$) reported involuntary future thinking during music lasting 30 minutes. While no significant group differences were found for the number of involuntary specific, categoric, and extended future, the nostalgic group reported more semantic future thinking than the novel music group. Activation of the autobiographical knowledge base through nostalgia evoked may provide semantic scaffolding for future thinking. Future studies should examine whether this finding can be applied to elderly and dementia populations.

125 **Personal goal characteristics predict the occurrence of imagined future events**

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The feeling that an event will happen in the future—referred to as belief in future occurrence — can predict the actual event occurrence. A major determinant of belief in future occurrence is the link between personal goals and the imagined event, but how personal goal characteristics shape belief and predict event occurrence remains unexplored. In this study, we asked participants to assess personal goals and then to imagine and rate belief in occurrence for events related to their goals that might happen in the coming month. Actual occurrence of events was assessed after one month. Results showed that goal value, commitment and expectancy predicted belief in future occurrence. These goal characteristics also predicted the actual occurrence of events. Notably, belief partially mediated the relationship between goal characteristics and actual occurrence. These results suggest that belief in future occurrence conveys useful information for guiding decisions and actions according to personal goals.

126 **Emotional closure in autobiographical memories: Investigating future events for resolve**

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Open memories are events without closure and are associated with feelings of being unresolved and incomplete. Some open events have the potential for resolution in the future and others are to remain incomplete. We compared the phenomenological properties of events that were closed, open with future possibility of resolution, and future events that will resolve open ones. We asked 74 participants in counterbalanced order, for events that were closed and open with resolution potential. Then, they reported future-resolve events of open memories and other future events similar to closed ones. Our results replicated findings for open and closed memories. We also found that future-resolve events were rated as more positive and appeared less frequently in spontaneous thought than open events. However, emotional intensity at recall and when spontaneously thought were similar across these events. We discuss our results in the context of threshold hypothesis in future thinking and clinical implications.

127 **Past and future life story chapters among individuals with an increased suicide risk: An empirical study**

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Life stories are important in creating self-continuity, meaning, and purpose in life. Even though suicide risk has been found to be related to a lack of self-continuity and feelings of hopelessness, few studies have examined life stories among individuals with an increased suicide risk. We will ask 20 participants with an increased suicide risk to describe 5 past life story chapters and 5 future life story chapters. The chapters will be self-rated on emotional valence, self-stability, self-change connections, and subjective likelihood (only for future chapters). The responses will be compared with data from another study that use a similar method to investigate life story chapters among individuals with depression and schizophrenia. Data collection is ongoing and results will be presented in the poster.

128 **The relationship between episodic future thinking and biased retelling characteristics**

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We examined the relationship between episodic future thinking (i.e., the ability to mentally time-travel into the future) and cognitive characteristics when people talk about their past. In addition, to examine the relationship between these cognitive characteristics and mental health, we investigated subjective hopefulness and tendencies of depression. Sixty-two participants answered the following questions online: (1) Episodic Future Thinking Test (EFT-T), (2) Re-telling about life experiences (Re-TALE), (3) Quick Inventory of Depressive Symptomatology Self-Report (QIDS-SR) and (4) Herth Hope Scale (HHS). A negative correlation was identified between positive EFT-T scores and positive emotion expansion characteristics in retelling past positive memories. Moreover we found that retelling of negative memories in a positively-biased way was positively correlated with HHS and negatively correlated with QIDS-SR. These results indicate that sharing narratives by expanding positive emotions with others is related the lack of ability to image concrete futures, especially positive images.

Poster session II - Abstracts

Wednesday 28 September 13:30-15:00

Social, collective, and cultural aspects of autobiographical memory II

201 **Age effects in imaging past and future collective events**

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Previous research showed that while younger individuals have vivid memories from their personal past, especially for positive events, elderly tend to report poor imagery. We focused on collective events and examined aging related changes in past and future episodic thinking. Specifically, we tested whether imagery of past and future collective events differs across younger ($M_{age}=22.61$) and older ($M_{age}=62.72$) individuals. We had a sample of 126 individuals. Participants reported important past events from the nation's past and future events that they expected to occur, then rated the phenomenological properties. We found that younger group reported higher imagery for the future events, for the older group, past events had higher imagery. This effect was independent of the valence or the date of the reported events, potentially supporting the role of long-standing collective self in guiding vivid event construction

202 **Historical change in the Emirati life script**

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Cultural life scripts organize culturally shared expectations regarding the order and timing of important life events during a prototypical life course. Prior research sustained that the semantic knowledge of cultural life scripts is relatively stable across decades and between age groups. Yet, time and generational differences have only been investigated in relatively stable societies and cultures, and in mostly female samples. In contrast, this study obtained the newborn and elderly Emirati life scripts in an equal number of younger and older women and men. As expected, the newborn life script displays current Emirati lifestyle and customs. The elderly life script mirrors the traditional desert-oriented lifestyle, which, however, seemed to be less known to the younger than to the older age group. Furthermore, we found age and questionnaire differences in the temporal distribution and emotional valence of life script events. Altogether, this study provides insight into the cultural life script of a young country that oscillates between tradition and modernity, and moreover indicates that cultural life scripts change because of cultural and societal

transformation.compare between age groups. The study highlights the role of vicarious memories in older adults' lives.

203 **How do we learn the cultural life script?**

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The cultural life script refers to culturally shared expectations regarding the most important events that are likely to occur in a typical person's life in that culture, as well as the order in which these events occur. Although the life script has typically been held as being transmitted through cultural tradition, as opposed to personal experience, there have been few attempts to empirically test the information sources through which we learn the life script. In the current study, therefore, I derive more fine-grained knowledge about the information sources through which individuals learn the life script, by (1) querying a UK sample about how they came to consider each event they included in the life script to be a typical and important event within their culture, and (2) testing whether individuals who have personally experienced an event are more likely to cite it as a life script event.

204 **The days we never forget: Flashbulb memories across the lifespan in patients with Alzheimer's disease**

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One of the earliest manifestations of Alzheimer's disease (AD) is episodic memory deficits. However, relatively little is known about a distinctive type of episodic memories, known as flashbulb memories, and the degree to which they are disrupted by the disease. To date, studies have mainly been directed towards examining whether AD patients are still able to form new flashbulb memories. However, no studies have examined the retention of flashbulb memories for events that occurred prior to the onset of the disease. In the present study, we examined how AD affects retrograde memory for the reception context of important public events across the life span. The frequency, characteristics, and phenomenological qualities of flashbulb memories in response to a series of public events spanning from the 1930th to 2010th was examined, including the presence of a temporal gradient. The findings are discussed in relation to theories of retrograde amnesia in AD.

Cueing and retrieval processes

205 **Direct and generative autobiographical memory retrieval in mild cognitive impairment**

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We examined the retrieval characteristics and the phenomenological qualities of effortless (i.e., direct) and effortful (i.e., generative) autobiographical memory (AM) in mild cognitive impairment (MCI). Twenty-six MCI patients and twenty-nine matched controls recalled AMs in response to word-cues and reported whether each of their memories was retrieved directly or generatively, and provided ratings for several retrieval and phenomenological characteristics. Overall, MCI patients recalled substantially fewer AMs, which were less specific, and had been more frequently rehearsed than the controls' AMs. Importantly, while the majority of the controls' AMs were directly retrieved, resonating the AM retrieval patterns observed in young adults, only half of the MCI patients' AMs were directly retrieved. The results provide novel insights on the AM deficits in MCI and support the spontaneous retrieval deficit hypothesis (Kvavilashvili, Niedźwieńska, Gilbert, & Markostamou, 2020), which suggests that stimulus-dependent spontaneous retrieval processes are particularly impaired by pathological, but not typical, ageing.

206 **Beyond amnesia, understanding intrusive memories in Alzheimer's disease**

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Despite typical memory loss in Alzheimer's Disease (AD), patients report experiencing intrusions of past -sometimes traumatic- events into their mind, possibly leading to the emergence of late-onset PTSD symptoms (Ritchie et al., 2019). So far, the occurrence of intrusive memories and belated PTSD symptoms in AD has only been reported by caregivers or in case studies. The present study will shed light on the psychological and cognitive mechanisms explaining intrusive memories in AD and their consequences. We hypothesize that the severity of temporally graded amnesia together with cognitive inhibition deficits are responsible for an increased level of intrusive memories in AD. In addition, the sudden disruption in living conditions -when patients have to move to nursing homes- may lead to a more pronounced spatial disorientation and a lower avoidance coping efficacy, reinforcing the release of intrusive memories. Preliminary results will be presented and discussed with regard to the initial hypotheses.

207 **Clinical investigations of music-evoked autobiographical memories: A systematic review**

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This systematic review examines research into music-evoked autobiographical memories (MEAMs) in clinical populations. We identified 15 studies featuring participants with Alzheimer's disease, behavioral variant-frontotemporal dementia, acquired brain damage, and depressed mood. All studies examined MEAMs immediately after listening, with 1 study examining responses 6 months apart.

In Alzheimer's disease, patients showed similar MEAM frequency compared to healthy older adults. Compared to silence, music increased memory specificity, positive valence, semantic recall, and retrieval time in patients, however not to the level of controls. In behavioral variant-frontotemporal dementia, MEAMs showed reduced frequency and specificity compared to controls. Studies of brain damage found preserved frequency, but impaired specificity of MEAMs compared to controls. For depressed participants, MEAM valence was evenly distributed between positive and negative, whereas controls' MEAMs were predominantly positive. Across conditions, MEAM-characteristics did not correlate with cognitive or executive function. In conclusion, music can improve autobiographical memory in several clinical populations.

208 **Cued autobiographical memory recall is less taxing and enhances cognitive reappraisal in older relative to younger adults**

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Autobiographical memory (AM) for self-defining narratives is preserved with age, and thought to enhance late-life mood regulation. However, AMs are often overlooked in studies of emotion regulation. In an online study, 219 younger (YA: 18-28) and 208 older (OA: 60-84) adults reappraised negative images as more positive, either without AM reference (non-AM, n=156), or by recalling a cued (n=118) or uncued (n=153) AM. Across age, non-AM reappraisal was more effective at reducing negative affect than AM strategies. In contrast to YAs, OAs demonstrated a trend such that cued AM was more effective than uncued AM reappraisal. Similarity between cued AM and stressor marginally predicted reappraisal efficacy. Thus, similarity across novel experiences and past memories may enhance the role of AM in later-life. Future studies may explore the

role of cognitive control directly, as our findings suggest OAs may benefit from using less taxing reappraisal approaches that build upon age-related strengths, edging the mixed nature of exciting memories. Findings will be discussed in the light of existing literature on emotional memories from a developmental perspective.

Narrative and linguistic style

209 **Interpersonal memory fidelity judgments regarding autobiographical narratives in young and older participants**

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In interpersonal communication, people monitor other people's memory to judge its credibility. We assessed whether the quality of the recollection of past events influenced how individuals rated the fidelity of others' memory and whether this is influenced by aging. 60 younger and 60 older participants listened to two types of autobiographical memories narrated by another person: either rich recollections or general memories. After each narrative, they rated how much they think the person has a faithful memory of what happened. The results showed that participants from both groups judged memories to more closely match what really happened when the memories contained many specific details. Older participants had globally higher memory fidelity ratings, but they showed the same effect of level of details as younger participants. This suggests that the quality of recollection in autobiographical memory influences interpersonal memory monitoring, whatever the age of the listener.

210 **Autobiographical memory and storytelling style in older and younger adults**

Clare Rathbone and Gavin Carver

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This study aimed to contribute to our understanding of the relationship between memory content (particularly episodic and semantic content) and story-telling style. Twenty older and 20 younger adults gave an account of an autobiographical memory (AM) and a fictional autobiographical memory (FAM) cued by a photograph. These accounts were scored for internal and external details, episodic richness and story quality. In the AM task, younger adults generated a higher proportion of internal details compared to older adults. However the reverse effect was found in the FAM Task, with older adults generating more internal details than younger adults. Furthermore, whilst episodic richness was significantly higher in younger adults than older adults on the AM

task, this difference was not present in the FAM task. These findings have implications for understanding the self-defining and social use of AM in ageing.

211 The fixed nature of 'narrative crystals'

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An important source for understanding autobiographical memory are narratives of personal relevance. Our paper is devoted to stories told multiple times that have largely fixed structures, within two different longitudinal collections of verbal interactions involving two women in their 80s (one US American; one French). Building on linguistic narrative studies, as well as communication studies of aging and dementia, in particular on formulaic language, we propose a model for understanding the fixed nature of such 'narrative crystals' by comparing their shaping elements, which we call 'building blocks'. We show how narrative crystals are formed both under conditions of normal age and under conditions of dementia, analyzing their linguistic constitution in terms of intonation, grammar and lexis. We ask about the autobiographical relevance underlying the formation of narrative crystals and about their communicative function, in the sense of an interactional resource that is preserved into old age and in dementia.

212 Predicting the effect of life narratives on readers by narrators' linguistic style

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Words not only reveal one's personality and thinking, but leave an impression on others. The effect of autobiographical memory narratives on recipients has so far been neglected, although appearing credible and making others relate to one's story is particularly important as social beings when narrating highly personal memories. We hypothesized that a more formal, analytical and a more linguistically complex style predicts that readers empathize less with the narrator, but find narratives more plausible. Up to three life narratives of 156 participants (aged 16 to 77) were analysed with the Linguistic Inquiry Word Count (LIWC) and rated on plausibility and empathizing with the narrator. We use multilevel models to test how narrators' linguistic style (based on composite LIWC categories) influences recipients' ratings of plausibility and empathizing. Results are discussed with respect to age differences as well as emotion elicitation through autobiographical memories.

213 **How do linguistic and thematic repetitions in autobiographical narratives differ between elderly adults with depression, Alzheimer disease, and healthy controls?**

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Linguistic and thematic repetitions in oral memory narratives are a heterogeneous phenomenon. They often serve as rhetoric devices in artful narrating, but may also signal intrusive topics against narrators' intentions. In depression, repetitions might signal a sense of being stuck in time. Repetitions also occur in self-corrections, which may be more common in dementia; in more severe dementia they may follow from problems of deficits of memory and discourse organization, of which narrators seem to be unaware. Based on brief life narratives, self-defining and turning point memories narrated by elderly Germans with a depressive disorder, with Alzheimer disease, and same-aged controls (N=61, ages 65-94), we created a typology of repetitions. We explore differences in the distribution of types of repetitions between groups and correlations with neuropsychological functioning.

Self, identity, and meaning-making

214 **Variations in cognitive status in older adults with memory difficulties: The roles of trait personality and resilience**

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Two-thirds of Americans over 70 experience some cognitive impairment including declines in working or episodic memory (Daselaar & Cabeza, 2013). These declines can affect autobiographical memory capacity and thus, sense of self (Benjamin et al., 2015; Peters et al., 2019). We expected certain psychosocial (i.e., non-biological) factors to predict variations in cognitive status. Participants (N = 49, Mage = 76.12) with memory difficulties completed measures of Self-Life Acceptance (Wagnild & Young, 1993), Neuroticism and Openness (BFI-2-XS; John & Soto, 2017), and working and episodic memory (TICS; Brandt et al., 1988). Hierarchical regressions show Self-Life Acceptance and Openness are related to better cognitive status. For those with low-moderate Neuroticism, when cognitive status is worse, Self-Life Acceptance 'kicks in' allowing them to better face memory difficulties. For those high in Neuroticism, in contrast, Self-Life Acceptance declines with cognitive status. Findings highlight the importance of psychosocial factors for older adults facing memory difficulties.

215 **Erikson's psychosocial stages in important autobiographical memories: Associations with life periods and life satisfaction**

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According to Erikson's theory of psychosocial development, life periods are characterized by age-graded developmental challenges. Positively engaging with these challenges can lead to a healthy development and general well-being. The present study investigated these two core assumptions based on older adults' most important autobiographical memories (AMs). Data came from 112 (59.8 % female) older adults aged between 61 and 91 years ($M = 70.96$, $SD = 6.81$) who reported up to 15 important AMs. Participants rated each memory according to the psychosocial themes of basic trust/mistrust, identity/confusion, intimacy/isolation, and generativity/stagnation. Overall, psychosocial themes were moderately represented in AMs. Moreover, the age at events corresponded in most parts to the life period during which the themes are expected to be most dominant. Finally, participants who rated their AMs as high in reflecting psychosocial themes and, at the same time, perceived their memories as more positive, showed higher levels of life satisfaction.

216 **Impact of Alzheimer dementia and depression on narrative identity: Coherence and distribution of memories across the lifespan in life narratives of elderly adults**

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Both Alzheimer dementia (AD) and depression cause pathological changes that likely influence how one's life is remembered and thus one's self is narrated. In AD, degenerative neurological changes lead to prodromal memory loss, especially of recent memories, whereas depression leads to overgeneralized memories. Life narratives of elders with AD are hypothesized to have lower coherence, particularly temporal and causal. For elderly with depression, we expect an intermediate position in temporal and causal coherence compared to AD and controls. In addition, we expect elderly with AD to include more memories from early than from recent life phases. Hypotheses were tested in a sample of about each 20 participants with AD, depression, and controls (age 65-94 years). Through the narrative analysis of life stories, we attempt to gain a better understanding of the impact of diseases like AD or depression on narrative identity.

217 **Does the connection of one's conceptual self and life-events differ between elderly people with depression, Alzheimer- disease and healthy controls throughout autobiographical memories?**

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"I'm overwhelmed by memory... I find it revitalizes me." This is how a 95-year-old man described his memories. The belief of being the same Person across the lifespan (diachronic self-coherence) can be achieved through episodic and semantic memory and through connecting the self-concept and its change to past life events in autobiographical remembering. How do Alzheimer disease and depression affect autobiographical memories? We expect them to reduce the use especially of change-engendering self-event connections in autobiographical remembering. We asked 61 people aged 65 to 94 years with depression, or Alzheimer disease, or neither of the two to narrate their life story, a self-defining, and a turning point memory. To improve the therapies, future studies should analyze whether self-event connections can be reactivated by asking specific questions about certain life periods.

218 **Engendering change or creating stability? How older adults deal with biographical ruptures**

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When biographical ruptures happen, autobiographical reasoning helps to bridge change and buffers negative effects on self-continuity. Autobiographical arguments that engender change by explaining how a disruptive event transformed the individual, are especially important in this regard. However, older adults increasingly use stability-maintaining autobiographical arguments (e.g. Köber et al., 2015), thereby creating self-sameness across time. We test whether the use of change-engendering and stability-maintaining autobiographical arguments in dealing with biographical ruptures differentially affects well-being in younger and older adults. Life narratives, biographical ruptures and well-being of 129 healthy individuals (20-80 y) were assessed twice, four years apart (waves 4 and 5 of the MainLife study). Results are discussed with regard to the role of updating the life story for maintaining well-being in older age.

219 **Neural mechanisms of late-life autobiographical reappraisal through dedifferentiation: A proposed framework and fMRI pilot findings**

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Neural dedifferentiation is framed as an age-related loss of neural integrity associated with global cognitive deficits. While true of episodic memory, dedifferentiation actually benefits gist recall of autobiographical memories (AMs). However, it remains unclear whether dedifferentiation of AMs may enhance older adult emotion regulation. We review how integration of traumatic life events into cohesive narratives of resilience benefits mood and discuss multivariate neuroimaging evidence supporting overlap in neural representations in promoting narrative integration. Age-related neural dedifferentiation and integration across AMs and new stressors may facilitate reappraisal via meaning-making in ventromedial prefrontal cortex. We explore whether integration of AMs and momentary stressors may enhance older adults' ability to reframe the meaning of the stressor in a positive light via use of a novel reappraisal paradigm. We review initial findings from our fMRI pilot study exploring these effects, and discuss future directions and clinical implications of the proposed model.

Reminiscence interventions

220 **Activation of memory through storytelling, songs and dance music for the severely demented**

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The professional artist group "Jørgen & Jens" has surprisingly good results by performing oral storytelling, reminiscence exercises, popular songs and dance music for aged and demented people.

We have recently performed for severely demented citizens in 15 Care Centers in Odense Municipality. The response from the participants and their professional Care-givers inspires us a lot to continue our artistic cooperation in "Jørgen & Jens"

We hope by participating in the conference to get more theoretically and scientific knowledge behind our findings and possibly meet colleagues with similar experiences.

221 **Digital life story books to preserve the self and improve well-being in dementia**

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Reminiscence therapy is among the most popular non-pharmacological interventions for persons with dementia. Past research, however, has not always been evidence-based and shows mixed efficacy. For the current study, a reminiscence activity was developed, specifically grounded in established principles of autobiographical memory. Using a pre-test, post-test, follow-up design, this reminiscence activity is expected to contribute to multi-faceted preservation of the self. Participants (49 older adults; Mage = 76.12) suffering from cognitive decline were randomly assigned to the Life Story Book condition or a Waitlist Control. Unique books were made for each person and they engaged in reading them once a day for 14 days, with a caregiver. Participants complete a battery of self-related questionnaires (e.g., self-concept clarity, self-esteem) at pre-test and three time points over two months. Results will be presented at the conference. If effective, this remote activity is a simple, cost-effective intervention to support individuals early in dementia.

222 **Scaffolding autobiographical memory: Can elaborative reminiscing enhance recall of people receiving aged care?**

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For older adults receiving aged care, interactions with staff may provide crucial opportunities for conversational reminiscing, with potential cognitive and emotional benefits. In developmental research, a long sociocultural tradition has shown how children's autobiographical memory is scaffolded when parents use an "elaborative reminiscing style". In the current project, we examined whether we could enhance conversations between staff and older adults in aged care contexts by teaching staff about the elaborative reminiscing style and supporting them to reminisce more often. We conducted a workshop with 16 aged care staff, followed by a 4-week practice period during which staff recorded day-to-day conversations. Analysis of conversations demonstrated that the use of elaborative reminiscing techniques by staff was associated with increased recall of memory details by older adults. We propose that principles of elaborative reminiscing apply lifelong, and that the benefits associated with reminiscing conversations may be particularly important in times of cognitive need.

223 **Social relational elements of autobiographical memory among older adults and persons with dementia**

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This poster explores new directions for understanding autobiographical memory among older adults without cognitive impairment and among persons with dementia. Drawing on data from two distinct ethnographic studies—one on memory and personhood in a day center for people with Alzheimer's disease in Poland, and the other on gardening and wellbeing among older African Americans without cognitive impairment in the US—this poster asks how social relational elements of autobiographical memories may offer new understandings of memory in late life. In Poland, elements of the collective past (e.g., shared national frameworks, embodied practices of sociality) animate practices of reminiscence among people with dementia. In Detroit, older African Americans who garden narrate their life histories via their relations with deceased loved ones and the plants themselves. This poster concludes that examining the social relational aspects of memory can shed light on older adults' experiences of belonging in the present.

Phenomenological qualities of autobiographical memory

224 **Remembering well and feeling well? Are individual differences in autobiographical memory associated with subjective well-being?**

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Subjective well-being refers to individual's positive appraisals and evaluations of their life and is associated with important outcomes such as good physical and mental health, longevity, and resilience. Research on the relationship between autobiographical memory and well-being has primarily focused on the emotional valence of the memories and individual differences in how individuals tell their life stories (i.e. narrative identity), while largely overlooking other relevant factors of autobiographical memory. In this study, we examine the relative contributions of emotional valence and narrative identity to well-being and test the novel idea that how individuals generally experience recalling the personal past (e.g., often, vividly, coherently) is an important – yet largely overlooked – facet of autobiographical memory in relation to well-being. The relationship between individual differences in the recollective experience of autobiographical memory and subjective well-being is discussed in relation to the effects of ageing.

225 **Richer phenomenology of memories central to identity: The indirect effects of rehearsal**

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Memories that are central to identity are also intense and vivid. Rehearsal's effect on this association requires additional attention. This study investigated whether the relationship between memory characteristics such as intensity and vividness, and centrality could be mediated by social sharing or private remembering of the events. The study comprised 356 participants, with a mean age of 43.13 (SD = 21.40), ranging between 18 and 92 years, covering the entire adult lifespan. Participants retrieved a total of 3978 memories in response to emotional cue words. The results yielded significant mediation effects of the two types of rehearsals. Intense and vivid memories were frequently shared and thought of. The rehearsal, in turn, influenced the relationship between intensity, vividness, and centrality. Moreover, older participants rated their memories as more central. Our results supported the assumption that rehearsal could serve as an agent in maintaining the phenomenology through time.

226 **Age and immediate recall using a self-report mental reinstatement procedure for eyewitnesses**

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In the present study, we examined the effect of age on retrieval accuracy, characteristics, and individual differences in autobiographical memory when using the Mental Reinstatement of Context (MRC) component of the Self-Administered Interview. We exposed 234 participants (M age = 42.46, SD = 13.17) to a complex film and instructed half of the participants to engage in mental reinstatement. Subsequently, both groups completed a free recall task and memory characteristics. Retrieval performances were coded for correct, incorrect, and unverifiable details. MRC participants scored higher on measures of reliving, vividness, scene, events, and emotions, suggesting a richer recall experience, but the use of MRC did not influence retrieval accuracy. Overall, we observed no correlation between age and retrieval accuracy, characteristics, or individual differences and no differences between participants below age 30 and above 60. Age did however correlate positively with the number of unverifiable details and with free recall duration.

227 **Tattoos embody autobiographical memories**

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Because autobiographical memories are crucial for personal identity, people use auxiliary ways such as diaries or photos to keep memories alive. Another way of remembering is tattooing, which however is underexplored in research on autobiographical memory. We therefore asked 161 adults ($M = 26.9$, $SD = 6.56$) for life events inspiring their tattoos and their seven most important memories, and compared the latter to 179 non-tattooed participants ($M = 31.6$, $SD = 15.49$). Most tattoos were motivated by specific yet idiosyncratic events most often located in the reminiscence bump period. Moreover, we found barely any differences in content, normativity, or age at time of event among the seven most important memories of tattooed and non-tattooed participants. Last, we asked non-tattooed participants for their memory objects, indicating that tattoos might be only one out of many ways to remember. Yet, tattoos seem to be the only way to embody autobiographical memories

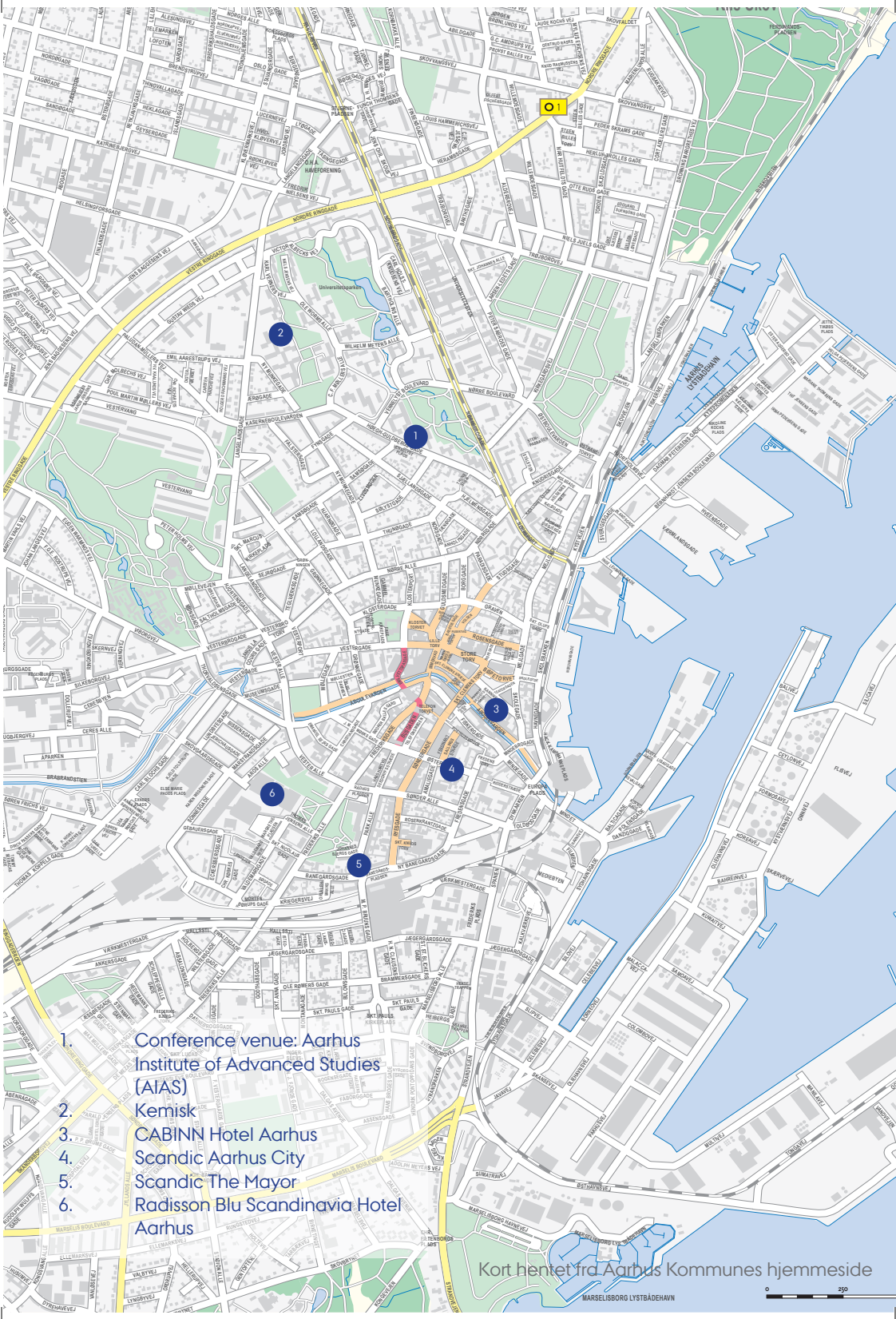
228 **Individual differences in autobiographical memory and creativity**

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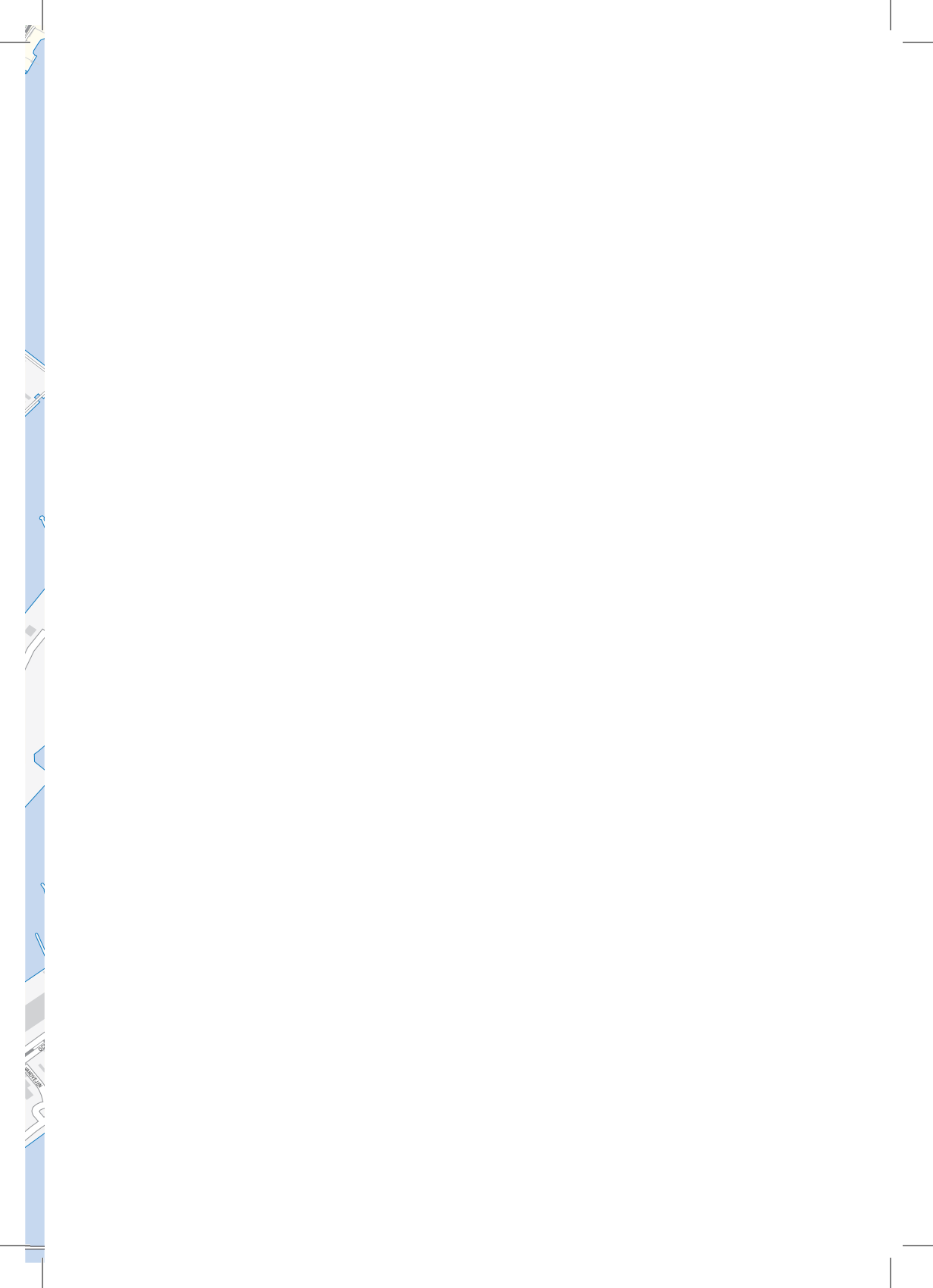
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Autobiographical memory supports several functions essential to our daily life such as future thinking, decision-making, sense of self, and creativity. The scarce literature suggests that memories for specific events, as well as memory-related brain networks contribute to creative performance, specifically divergent thinking (i.e. the ability to generate novel responses to a problem). Whether stable individual tendencies in the experience of remembering personal events, rather than specific memories, support creativity has not yet been studied. By applying the Autobiographical Recollection Test (ART; Berntsen et al., 2019), a new psychometric measure of individual differences in autobiographical memory, we report preliminary results showing that individual differences in how people generally remember their personal past are associated with their performance in a divergent thinking task, and with how frequently they engage in creative activities. Age, gender and affectivity influences were considered. The findings support the role of autobiographical memory for creativity.



- 1. Conference venue: Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS)
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