

BRIEF SUMMARY

Koutstaal, W., & Schacter, D. L. (1997). Inaccuracy and inaccessibility in memory retrieval: Contributions from cognitive psychology and neuropsychology. In P. S. Appelbaum, L. A. Uyehara, & M. R. Elin (Eds.), *Trauma and memory: Clinical and legal controversies* (pp. 93–137). New York: Oxford University Press.

(from the chapter) In an effort to come to terms with questions about the inaccuracy and inaccessibility of memory retrieval, clinicians, researchers, and others involved in the debate about traumatic memory, have turned to a number of different areas of research that might provide helpful concepts and relevant evidence. This chapter focuses on these questions with regard to the retrieval of normal or nontraumatic events. /// The chapter is divided into 2 main sections. In the 1st section, we identify several broad, often interrelated, factors that may impede or prevent memory retrieval. Detrimental effects due to incongruent retrieval environments, interference arising from prior and subsequent learning, and the costs of simply not retrieving – or of intentionally forgetting – adequately encoded and processed information, are among the factors we review here. /// In the 2nd section, we point to several broad factors that may contribute to memory distortion, including memory intrusions and false recognition.
