

BRIEF SUMMARY

Koutstaal, W., & Schacter, D. L. (1997). Intentional forgetting and voluntary thought suppression: Two potential methods for coping with childhood trauma. In L. J. Dickstein, M. B. Riba, & J. M. Oldham (Eds.), *Review of Psychiatry*, 16, 79–121. Washington, D.C.: American Psychiatric Press.

(from the chapter) The authors begin by briefly reviewing several sources of evidence suggesting that intentional and conscious efforts to suppress one's thoughts and memory of traumatic experiences are sometimes used by children and adults in attempting to cope with trauma. The main part of this chapter focuses on the empirical literature regarding directed forgetting and thought suppression. In these sections, the authors assess evidence of the degree to which, and the conditions under which, intentional forgetting and voluntary thought suppression can produce their intended effects. They also provide an assessment of the processes believed to underlie successful intentional forgetting and thought suppression. In the final section, the authors attempt briefly to interrelate key findings from these 2 paradigms with clinical and other reports of child abuse and other trauma and suggest several questions that future research should examine.
