

MEMORY AND THE SELF

Some events in one's life matter to one more than others, and are remembered (or not remembered) accordingly. Memories of events that matter the most, that is, memories "of significant personal experiences from an individual's life" (Wang & Conway, 2004, p. 912) comprise autobiographical memory. Autobiographical memories are defined as personal, long lasting and significant to one's self, thus forming one's personal life story (Nelson, 1993).
Antalíková, 2011

The Issue: Does a person's memory and how they remember influence their self concept and identity or does their self concept and identity influence what and how they remember?

A proposed fourth Constituent of the self: The historical Me

"If you want to know me, then you must know my story, for my story defines who I am. And if I want to know myself, to gain insight into the meaning of my own life, then I, too, must come to know my own story. I must come to see in all its particulars the narrative of the self—the personal myth—that I have tacitly, even unconsciously, composed over the course of my years. It is a story I continue to revise, and tell to myself (and sometimes to others) as I go on living." Dan P. McAdams (The Stories We Live By)

"Humans are not chimpanzees with language. Homo sapiens tell stories."
Michael S. Gazzaniga

Susan Engel: Then and Now: Creating a Self Through the Past

"The past not as it was but the past as remembered."

"There is not simply one line of connection, one explanation for how the remembering self [the 'I'] corresponds or creates links with the remembered selves [the 'me']. The remembering self [the 'I'] is always a person in a

specific situation, remembering for a particular reason.”

To entertain

To impress others

To justify oneself

To confront someone for what he or she did the person in the past

To try and make sense out of one’s life

How did I get to this point?

Why do I behave or react the way I do?

To learn or grow. Self awareness.

To clarify one’s Identity.

Who am I?

To understand others: Empathy

To connect to others. “I identify with you [or what happened to you]

“We reconstruct reality in a way that restores our self-concept.”

Bias Scanning

SCREEN MEMORIES

Sensibar

Screen memory serves to condense into scenarioform the themes and issues that may have rambled through and pervaded life. A memory that stands for a series of events.

FLASHBULB MEMORY

Brown and Kulik (1977).

Charles Weaver (1993) “Undue Confidence”