

# Involuntary Autobiographical Memories

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Promotes a new interpretation of involuntary autobiographical memories, a phenomenon previously defined as a sign of distress or trauma. We often remember personal experiences without any conscious effort. A piece of music heard on the radio may stir a memory of a moment from the past. Such occurrences are known as involuntary autobiographical memories. They often occur in response to environmental stimuli or aspects of current thought. Until recently, they were treated almost exclusively as a clinical phenomenon, as a sign of distress or a mark of trauma. In this innovative new work, however, Dorthe Berntsen argues that involuntary memories are predominantly positive and far more common than previously believed. She argues that they reflect a basic mode of remembering that predates the more advanced strategic retrieval mode, and that their primary function may simply be to prevent us from living in the present. Reviewing a variety of cognitive, clinical, and aesthetic approaches, this monograph will be of immense interest to anyone seeking to better understand this misunderstood phenomenon. EAN/ISBN : 9780511512612 Publisher(s): Cambridge University Press Format: ePub/PDF Author(s): Berntsen, Dorthe

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