**Reply to Stephanie’s Week 3 Discussion 3-1**

**Week 3 Discussion: Flexible Retrieval: When True Inferences Produce False Memories**

**Empirical Research**

These articles describe episodic memories that involve flexible retrieval. This allows people to link together distinct episodes, make novel inferences across overlapping events, and recombine elements of past experiences one might have when imagining future events. Some of the same processes may leave memory prone to error or distortion. Memories may have you thinking one event is mistakenly attributed to another related event. Individuals encoded everyday scenes composed of people, objects, and other contextual details. They contained overlapping elements, AB and BC, that could be linked to support novel inferential retrieval. The elements of AC had not appeared yet. The experiment concerned whether details were probed before or after the associative inference test. This allows access to false memories increased for successful vs unsuccessful inferences. They used variants of the paradigm. Some mechanisms can produce false memories in younger but not older adults. Older adults compared to younger adults did not show an increase in source misattributions following successful associative inference. The differing patterns of results are a consequence of age-related deficits in associative binding during success.

**Relates to your own experience**

The mind has its own way of showing us things. The memory is a part of the mind that stores information. Things can trigger a good or bad memory. Most memories are things we forgot happened or things that made your life happy. There are things in my life I can not quite remember, but if I come across a smell or scene, I have a flashback of something that might have happened in my past. My childhood is a blur because something tragic happened at a young age and it caused my memory to try and forget it.

**Skeptical Inquiry and APAs Ethical Principles**

When talking about experiments, we have to make sure children, participants, and other individuals are kept safe. These people are to be honest and truthful about the information they are giving. Past and current history can be helpful because we have to make sure we do not distribute the wrong medications to the patients and clients. Therefore, psychologists are to make decisions based on reasonable assumptions. Under any circumstances their files are to be shared or seen by anybody other than the people in charge. All files are kept sacred and recorded in case of emergency.

**Valid or Appropriate**

Studies and research shows the validity of their work. If any hurt, harm, or danger were to come, psychologists are to help out and take over. Individuals are hip to what is going on around them and they know what should happen if anything was to go wrong. There was an error in research to prove the increase for successful or unsuccessful inferences in younger and older adults.

**References**

American Psychological Association. (2017). Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct. Retrieved from [https://www.apa.org/ethics/code/ethics-code-2017.pdf (Links to an external site.)](https://www.apa.org/ethics/code/ethics-code-2017.pdf)

Carpenter, A.C.; Schacter, Daniel. L.(2017) V43(3) p335-349. Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition. Flexible retrieval: when true inferences produce false memories.

Carpenter, A. C.; Schacter, Daniel L.(May2109). Correction to: Flexible Retrieval Mechanisms Supporting Successful Inference Produce False Memories in Younger but Not Older Adults.