Remembering Dangerously; Recovered Memory

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Abstract

Like the witch-hunt trials of old, people today are being accused and even imprisoned on ‘evidence’ provided by memories from dreams and flashbacks - memories that didn't exist before therapy. What is going on here?

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Remembering Dangerously. Feature. Elizabeth Loftus. Skeptical Inquirer Volume 19.2, March / April 1995. Like the witch-hunt trials of old, people today are being accused and even imprisoned on ‘evidence’ provided by memories from dreams and flashbacks — memories that didn't exist before therapy. What is going on here? The memories were recovered when the adult daughters went into therapy in 1987 and 1988. After the breakup of her third marriage, the older daughter started psychotherapy, eventually diagnosing herself as a victim of multiple-personality disorder and satanic ritual abuse. She convinced her sister and her niece to begin therapy and joined in their therapy sessions for the first year. She recovered the memory as an adult. “Discovery revealed several other victims, whose testimony was helpful in establishing that the Seventh Day Adventist should have known of the teacher’s propensities.” Shepard's/McGraw-Hill, Verdicts, Settlements & Tactics (1991). 7. D’s recovered memory (in 1991) of sexual abuse by her father, Stanley Huntingford, 20-34 years earlier. Jennifer Hoult has launched a website that documents the errors about her case that are contained in “Remembering Dangerously,” an oft-cited article by Elizabeth Loftus in the Skeptical Inquirer. (See Jennifer Hoult, “Remembering Dangerously’ & Hoult v. Hoult: The Myth of Repressed Memory that Elizabeth Loftus Created’ (2005.) 17. People v. Hoffman.