

Are Individuals with Higher Interdependent Self-Construal More Likely to Change Their Belief in the Occurrence of Autobiographical Events?



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BACKGROUND

The phenomenon through which an autobiographical memory is no longer believed to represent an event that actually took place, despite a vivid recollection of the event, has been termed "nonbelieved memory" (NBM)^{2,3}.

While most studies have sought to characterise NBMs (e.g. their frequency, dating, phenomenological characteristics)^{1,2,5}, very few studies have attempted to differentiate individuals who report these memories from those who do not.

OBJECTIVE

Examining the role of independent and interdependent self-construal on the occurrence of NBMs and on the reasons for changes in belief in the occurrence of an event.

METHOD

Screened participants: N = 183 (20 - 60 years, 108♀, M = 32.36 years, SD = 12.88 years).

STEP 1

Participants completed the French version of the Singelis 30-item Self-Construal Scale (SCS)⁴.

STEP 2

Answer to the screening question
 → NO → STOP
 → YES

NBM

1. Description
2. Age at the time of the event
3. Reason(s) for withdrawing belief
4. Age at withdrawal
5. Evaluation of belief, recollection, plausibility
6. Ratings of phenomenological characteristics

BM

Points 1, 2, 5, 6

RESULTS

FREQUENCY AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF NBMS

Frequency: 49/183 (26.8%)

Age at the time of the event:

M = 9.37, SD = 10.1, Median = 6, range = 1-54

Age at withdrawal:

M = 17.3, SD = 11.1, Median = 15, range = 5-60

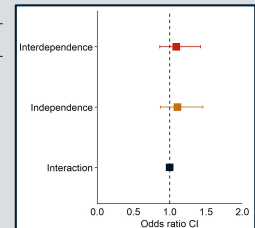
Reason for withdrawing belief:

- Social feedback: n=30
- Other: n=19

NBMS FORMATION AND SELF-CONSTRUAL

	NBM		No NBM		Effects	Estimate	Std. Error	Z value	Pr(> z)
	Ind.	Inter.	Ind.	Inter.					
M	70.7	71	68.8	70.2	Inter.	0.086	0.127	0.683	0.495
(SD)	(9.5)	(10.3)	(9.8)	(8.6)	Ind.	0.101	0.130	0.776	0.438
Min	53	39	46	39	Interaction	-0.001	0.002	-0.633	0.527
Max	89	97	91	97					

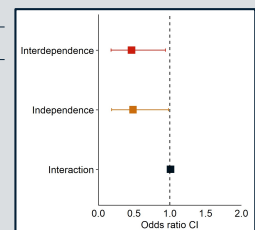
→ Independence and/or interdependence scores do not predict whether or not a NBM is reported.



REASONS FOR WITHDRAWING BELIEF AND SELF-CONSTRUAL

	Social feedback		Other		Effects	Estimate	Std. Error	Z value	Pr(> z)
	Ind.	Inter.	Ind.	Inter.					
M	70.8	69.6	70.5	73.3	Inter.	-0.765	0.416	-1.838	0.066
(SD)	(8.2)	(11.1)	(11.4)	(8.63)	Ind.	-0.722	0.412	-1.752	0.080
Min	53	46	53	57	Interaction	0.010	0.006	1.775	0.076
Max	86	91	91	90					

→ Independence and/or interdependence scores do not predict the reason for belief change.



CONCLUSIONS

The present results suggest that the occurrence of NBMs and the reasons for changing one's belief in the reality of an event are not related to independent and interdependent self-construal.

We note however that individual levels of independence and interdependence in our sample were not as strongly contrasted as what can be observed between some culturally distinct populations (e.g. American vs Asian participants).

Future research would therefore benefit from adopting a cross-cultural approach in the investigation of the impact of self-construal on nonbelieved memories.

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