

Symposium: Science of child abuse, its media presentation, and forensic considerations

Organizers: Jennifer Freyd and Kathy Pezdek
Additional Speakers: Ross Cheit, Frank Putnam, Tom Lyon
Sunday Feb 15 2004, 9:00-10:30 AM
AAAS Annual Meeting, Seattle
<http://dynamic.uoregon.edu/~jff/aaas04.html>

Symposium Overview

- There is good science now regarding the problem of child abuse
 - We know a lot about prevalence, causes, and consequences of child abuse
 - We also know something about how to prevent it
- While many questions remain, we have strong data regarding these facts:
 - child abuse is a crisis, occurring at epidemic rates
 - it mostly occurs in the family
 - it is very costly to society

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And Yet...

- Despite good science and compelling data, society seems uninformed
- Public and media focus is not on what we know or what we should do about child abuse
- Misinformation and unscientific thinking have a negative impact on children and on society

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Memory for abuse

Popular conceptions of memory for abuse is one domain that has been characterized by misinformation and unscientific thinking.

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