

CURRICULUM VITAE, HENRY OTGAAR, PhD



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Personal information

Birth date: April 9, 1983

Birth place: Maastricht, the Netherlands

Citizenship: Dutch

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Research Interests

Dr. Otgaar's research concentrates on developmental changes in memory from childhood to adulthood. Specifically, he is interested in factors that relate to the development of memory illusions. He collaborates with research groups in the United

Kingdom, Belgium, Canada, Sweden, and North America. Furthermore, he has received awards for his research and teaching. Current studies focus on precursors of children's and adults' false memories, adaptive memory, delayed disclosure of sexual abuse, and interviewing children.

Dr. Otgaar has disseminated his work extensively and had presented his work to psychologists, students, and practitioners. His research often attracts national as international media attention. Also, he has often cooperated in legal cases involving child witnesses.

Awards and grants

(2002) *Best Research Award at the 2002 Student Symposium* at the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience, Maastricht University (100 euro)

(2006) *Best Teaching Assistant Award* at the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience, Maastricht University (100 euro)

(2009) Nominated for the *Koningsheide award*, the Netherlands

(2009) *Best Paper Award* at the 8th International Conference, The Society of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, July-25-30, Kyoto, Japan (150 euro)

(2010) Nominated for the *Rabobank Dissertation award*, Maastricht

(2006-2009) Dr. Otgaar's research has been funded by the Netherlands Organization of Scientific Research (NWO); *Children's false memories: The role of plausibility and valence*

(2010) *Travel grant* for visit from Professor Gail Goodman (2500 euro)

(2010) Submitted a VENI grant (250.000 euro) to NWO (Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research)

(2011) EAPL Early Career Excellence Award

(2011) Edmond Hustinx Science award (15.000 euro)

Academic positions

Assistant professor (Maastricht University, 2011),

Post doc (Maastricht University, 2009),

PhD (*Cum laude*; Maastricht University, 2009),

PhD-student (Maastricht University, 2006),

Teaching assistant (Maastricht University, 2005).

Tutor (Maastricht University, 2002)

Publications

2007

Otgaar, H.P., & Candel, I. (2007). Kinderen en valse herinneringen: de rol van valentie [Children and false memories: The role of valence]. *Kind en Adolescent*, 28, 236-247.

Otgaar, H.P., & Candel, I. (2007). Herinneringen kleuters Heerle wellicht vals. [Memories children Heerle probably false]. *Dagblad de Limburger*.

2008

Otgaar, H.P., Candel, I., & Merckelbach, H. (2008). Children's false memories: Easier to elicit for a negative than a neutral event. *Acta Psychologica*, 128, 350-354.

Candel, I., & Otgaar, H. (2008). De (on)mogelijkheden van de getuige-deskundige in zedenzaken [The (im)possibilities of the expert witness in child sexual abuse cases]. *Expertise en Recht*, 3, 83-86

Smeets, T., Otgaar, H., Candel, I., & Wolf, O.T. (2008). True or false? Memory is differentially affected by stress-induced cortisol elevations and sympathetic activity at consolidation and retrieval. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 33, 1378-1386.

2009

Otgaar, H., Candel, I., Merckelbach, H., & Wade, K.A. (2009). Abducted by a UFO: Prevalence information affects young children's false memories for an implausible event. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 23, 115-125.

Otgaar, H. (2009). Not all false memory paradigms are appropriate in court. In L. Strömwall & P.A. Granhag (Eds.), *Memory: Reliability and personality* (pp. 37-46). Göteborg: Göteborg University.

De Ruiter, C., & Otgaar, H. (2009). Zo onderzoek je geen zedenzaken. [That's not how you should investigate sexual abuse cases] *NRC Handelsblad*.

2010

Howe, M., Candel, I., Otgaar, H., Malone, C., & Wimmer, M.C. (2010). Valence and the development of immediate and long-term false memory illusions. *Memory*, 18, 58-75.

Otgaar, H. (2010). De zaak Robert M. [The case Robert M.]. *NRC Handelsblad*.

Otgaar, H. (2010). Het gevaar van geheugenillussies bij kinderen in de rechtzaal [The danger of children's memory illusions in court]. *Asega*, 29, 11.

Otgaar, H. (2010). Het ontstaan van pseudo-herinneringen van kinderen. Over de rol van plausibiliteit, valentie en kennis [The development of children's false

- memories. The role of plausibility, valence, and knowledge]. *Ars Aequi*, 7, 513-517.
- Otgaar, H., Candel, I., Memon, A., & Almerigogna, J. (2010). Differentiating between children's true and false memories using Reality Monitoring criteria. *Psychology, Crime & Law*, 16, 555-566.
- Otgaar, H., Candel, I., Scoboria, A., & Merckelbach, H. (2010). Script knowledge enhances the development of children's false memories. *Acta Psychologica*, 133, 57-63.
- Otgaar, H., Candel, I., Smeets, T., & Merckelbach, H. (2010). "You didn't take Lucy's skirt off": The effect of misleading information on omissions and commissions in children's memory reports. *Legal & Criminological Psychology*, 15, 229-241.
- Otgaar, H., Meijer, E.H., Giesbrecht, G., Smeets, T., Candel, I., & Merckelbach, H. (2010). Children's suggestion-induced omission errors are not caused by memory erasure. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 19, 265-269.
- Otgaar, H., & Smeets, T. (2010). Adaptive memory: Survival processing increases both true and false memory in adults and children. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 36, 1010-1016.
- Otgaar, H., Smeets, T., & van Bergen, S. (2010). Picturing survival memories: Enhanced memory after fitness-relevant processing occurs for verbal and visual stimuli. *Memory & Cognition*, 38, 23-28.
- Otgaar, H., Smeets, T., & Merckelbach, H. (2010). De nieuwste hit in geheugenland: survival processing [The newest hit in memory land: Survival processing]. *De Psycholoog*, 12, 10-17.
- Raymaekers, L., Peters, M., Otgaar, H., & Smeets, T. (2010). Het classificatieprobleem bij onderzoek naar hervonden herinneringen [The classification problem in recovered memory research]. *GZ-psychologie*, 8, 20-27.

2011 and in press

- Otgaar, H., & Candel, I. (2011). Children's false memories: Different false memory paradigms reveal different results. *Psychology, Crime & Law*, 17, 513-518.
- Otgaar, H., Smeets, T., Merckelbach, H., Jelicic, M., Verschuere, B., Galliot, A., & van Riel, L. (2011). Adaptive memory: Stereotype activation is not enough. *Memory & Cognition*, 39, 1033-1041.
- Otgaar, H., Alberts, H. (in press). How cognitive resources alter our perception of the past: Ego depletion enhances the susceptibility to suggestion. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*.

Otgaar, H., Horselenberg, R., van Kampen, R., & Lalleman, K. (in press). Clothed and unclothed human figure drawings lead to more correct and incorrect reports of touch in children. *Psychology, Crime & Law*.

Otgaar, H., Peters, M., & Howe, M.L. (in press). Dividing attention differentially impacts children's and adults' false recall and recognition. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*.

Verschuere, B., Spruyt, A., Meijer, E., & Otgaar, H. (in press). The ease of lying. *Consciousness & Cognition*.

in revision/review/preparation

Otgaar, H., Verschuere, B., Meijer, E., & van Oorsouw, K. (in revision). Children's implanted originate from memory traces, not compliance.

Otgaar, H., Smeets, T., & Peters, M. (under review). Children's implanted false memories and additional script knowledge.

Otgaar, H., Smeets, T., & Peters, M. (under review). Developmental reversals in implanted false memories?

Scoboria, A., Wysman, L., & Otgaar, H. (under review). Certainty about the source of suggested false events impact the development of false autobiographical beliefs.

Smeets, T., Otgaar, H., Peters, M.J.V., Raymaekers, L., & Merckelbach, H. (under review). Adaptive memory in times of stress: Survival processing and acute stress independently and persistently enhance retention.

Peters, M.J.V., Engel, M., Hauschildt, M., Morizt, S., Jelinek, L., & Otgaar, H. (under review). Investigating the corrective effect of forewarning on memory and meta-memory in schizophrenia patients.

Otgaar, H., van Oorsouw, K., Raymaekers, L., & Merckelbach, H. (in preparation). False memories and suggestibility in paranormal believers.

Otgaar, H., Scoboria, A., & Strange, D. (in preparation). The development of plausibility.

Otgaar, H., Scoboria, A., & Smeets, T. (in preparation). Experimentally-induced non-believed memories.

Otgaar, H., Candel, I., Giesbrecht, T., & Merckelbach, H. (in preparation). Children's suggestibility and inhibition.

Otgaar, H., Smeets, T., Howe, M.L. & Peters, M. (in preparation). Developmental trends in visual false memories.

Otgaar, H., Howe, M.L., & Smeets, T. (in preparation). Survival memories in children.

Otgaar, H., Howe, M.L., & Verschuere, B. (in preparation). The development of inhibition and its relation with false memories.

Otgaar, H., & Merckelbach, H. (in preparation). Daydreaming and false memories.

Conference presentations

Otgaar, H. & Candel, I. (2007) Abducted by a UFO: The effect of prevalence information on children's false memories for an implausible event. The 7th International Conference, The Society of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, July-25-29, Lewiston, Maine.

Otgaar, H., Candel, I., Scoboria, A., & Merckelbach, H. (2008). Script knowledge affects the development of children's false memories. The 18th International Conference, The European Association of Psychology and Law, July 2-5, Maastricht, The Netherlands.

Otgaar, H., Candel, I., Memon, A., & Almerigogna, J. (2009). Differentiating between children's true and false memories using reality Monitoring criteria. Society for Research in Child Development, April 2-4, Denver, CO.

Otgaar, H., Candel, I., Smeets, T., & Merckelbach, H. (2009). Erasing children's memory. Society for Research in Child Development, April 2-4, Denver, CO.

Otgaar, H., Meijer, E.H., Giesbrecht, G., Smeets, T., Candel, I., & Merckelbach, H. (2009). Erasing children's memories: A reaction time analysis of children's suggestion-induced omission errors. The 8th International Conference, The Society of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, July-25-30, Kyoto, Japan.

Otgaar, H., Verschuere, B., Meijer, E., & van Oorsouw, K. (2010). Children's implanted false memories: Memories or compliance? The 20th International Conference, The European Association of Psychology and Law, June 15-18, Gothenburg, Sweden.

Otgaar, H. (2011). Adaptive memory: Stereotype activation is not enough. The Society of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, June 15-18, New York, US.

Otgaar, H. (2011). Non-believed memories and false memories. The Society of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, June 15-18, New York, US.

Invited talks/colloquia

Otgaar, H. (2007). *Reliability of children's statements*. Invited talk at Faculty of Law, Maastricht University, the Netherlands.

Otgaar, H. (2008). *Memory*. Invited talk at Faculty of health, Medicine and Life Sciences, Maastricht University, the Netherlands.

- Otgaar, H. (2009). *Memory*. Invited talk at Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences, Maastricht University, the Netherlands.
- Otgaar, H. (2009). *Precursors of children's false memories*. Invited colloquium at Research Institute EPP, Utrecht, the Netherlands.
- Otgaar, H. (2009). *Precursors of children's false memories*. Invited talk at Ghent University, Belgium.
- Otgaar, H. (2010). *False memories in court*. Invited talk at Brain Awareness Week, Sittard, the Netherlands.
- Otgaar, H. (2010). *False memories and photos*. Invited talk at Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience, Maastricht University, the Netherlands.
- Otgaar, H. (2010). *Memory illusions in court*. Invited talk for Studium Generale, the Netherlands.
- Otgaar, H. (2010). *Memory illusions*. Invited talk at Lustrum Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience, the Netherlands.
- Otgaar, H. (2010). *Experimental research in memory illusions*. Invited talk at Faculty of Arts & Culture, the Netherlands.
- Otgaar, H. (2011). *Forensic psychology and false memory research*. Invited talk at Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience, the Netherlands.
- Otgaar, H. (2011). *Memory*. Invited talk at Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences, the Netherlands.
- Otgaar, H. (2011). *Children's and adults' false memories*. Invited talk at Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience, the Netherlands.
- Otgaar, H. (2011). *False memories and photos*. Invited talk at Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience, Maastricht University, the Netherlands.

International experience

Aberdeen, Scotland (2007): two week stay at Prof. Memon's lab for Reality Monitoring workshop

Göteborg (2008): one week stay at Prof. Granhag's lab for the *Second Nordic PhD Course in Legal and Investigative Psychology*

Journal Reviewer

Applied Cognitive Psychology

Cognition

Cognition & Emotion

Current Directions in Psychological Science

Memory

Memory & Cognition

Psychology, Crime & Law

Journal of Applied Social Psychology

Journal of Experimental Child Psychology

Teaching

Course coordinator Course "Sex Offenders"

Member Unit Course "Eyewitnesses and Victims"

Member Unit Course "Experts and their Decisions"

Member Unit Course "Psychology and Law in a Nutshell"

Mentor Bachelor students

Lecturer in Psychology and Law courses (Maastricht University, Ghent University)

Lecturer in Course FHML (Maastricht University)

Lecturer in University College (Maastricht University)

History of Psychology

Consciousness

Development of Learning

Statistics

Psychodiagnostics

Mathematics

Perpetrators and Defendants

Critical thinking

Communication skills

Complex cognition

Writing and presenting

Memory

Method and techniques in psychology

Individual differences

Decisions

Research: How to do it?

Practical "Psychology and Law"

Individual courses "Psychology and Law in a Nutshell"

Supervision Bsc/Msc Theses

Master courses Psychology and Law

Organizational activities

Senior member of the research school and institute Experimental Psychopathology
(EPP; 2006-present)

Chair of the Organizing Committee of the Forensic Psychology Day (2010-present)

Member of the Organizing Committee of the European Association of Psychology and Law (EAPL; 2008)

Member of the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience's Library Committee (2010-present)

Member of the Board of Admission of the 2-year Forensic Psychology master (2010-present)

Coordinator Mobile Lab Equipment (2009-present)

Languages

Dutch (native speaker)

English (fluent)

French (moderate)

Indonesian (moderate)