

Review of: "Viewing trauma as a developmental process emerging from chronic repeated experience and reiterated meaning-making mental processes"

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This article provides a much-needed reemphasis of the developmental impact of trauma on both the traumatizing landscape within which “index” traumas tend to occur, as well as the role of identity, meaning-making mechanisms, and individual differences as mediators (and/or moderators) of the impact of potentially traumatic events on the individual.

The focus on the meaning-making mechanisms of the child/individual is reminiscent of Arnold and Lazarus' work introducing cognitive appraisal into the stress reaction process that unfolds in the mind-brain.

In light of this focus, which carries with it many strengths and an openness to the more accurate complexity of the transactional process of development, it remains important to keep in mind that certain traumatic events or contexts are likely deleterious to most everyone that experiences them, *even* when the individual does not (at least at the time) interpret the event as being harmful or “traumatic”. A child who is groomed by a parent into a sexual relationship may, by proxy of the perpetrator's breakdown of normative risk detection and/or interpersonal boundaries on the part of the child, not experience resultant sexual behavior as “wrong” in the moment, but may later, when reflecting back on their capacity for autonomy or privacy of their own body, particularly in comparison to peers without said experiences, may begin to realize the traumatizing nature of said events and experience posttraumatic symptoms.

The authors in a way encapsulate (or sidestep?) this alternative view by describing meaning-making as occurring pre-verbally and stored in neurosomatic symptoms and operations, independent of language or the conscious meaning-making process.

In general, this is a worthwhile read and fits well into my view of human function and dysfunction through a developmental psychopathology framework.