

Jacquin, K.M. (1998). The effects of maladaptive schemata on information processing. *Dissertation Abstracts International*, 59 (01): 435B.

This study investigated the effects of Early Maladaptive Schemata (EMSs; Young, 1994) on information processing. First, the impact of two types of priming on Schema Questionnaire (SQ) scores (the SQ measures EMSs) was examined. Hypothetically, priming activates relevant EMSs, and causes an increase in SQ scores; a priming technique which reflects experiences in a study participant's life should serve as a more effective prime than a technique which reflects a more generic, but still EMS-relevant, experience. Contrary to this hypothesis, priming did not lead to significant increases in SQ scores, when compared to unprimed EMSs. In addition, schema relevance did not significantly impact changes in SQ scores. Also inconsistent with expectations was the finding that type of priming technique did not significantly impact change in SQ scores. Second, this study investigated participants' abilities to remember stories relevant to their own EMSs. Hypothetically, stories relevant to one's own EMSs are easier to remember than stories irrelevant to one's EMSs. However, the current research did not find support for this hypothesis. Third, this study examined the impact of particular EMSs, in combination with EMS-congruent sentence stems and endings, on reaction times in a lexical decision task. Hypothetically, participants with a particular EMS make a faster lexical decision when the string of letters in question is not only a word, but a word which completes an EMS-congruent sentence. Consistent with expectations, ending relevance (whether the ending created an EMS-congruent, incongruent, or anomalous sentence) significantly impacted reaction times, and for one group of participants, EMS-congruent words produced faster reaction times compared to incongruent and anomalous words. More detailed results and the implications of the findings are discussed in the text.