

Preface

It took a long time for me to write this book, and there were times when I thought it would never happen. My good friend and colleague Michael Pressley and I first published a volume on memory development between two and twenty in 1989, followed by a second edition in 1997. In the preface to the latter volume, we announced a third edition within the next years. This did not happen for two reasons. First, both of us were busy with different issues during the time we had scheduled for an update of our memory book, and we found it difficult to refocus our efforts on aspects of memory development. Second and, much more important, Mike became seriously ill during this time and passed away much too early in 2006. This tragic and unexpected event not only shocked me but also forced me to postpone the plan to write another book on memory development.

It took another 5 years before I saw a chance to reactivate this plan. At that time, Volkswagen Foundation and Thyssen Foundation offered grants for Opus Magnum writings, that is, comprehensive books on important themes in the humanities and social sciences. I realized that this could be a nice opportunity to write a book on memory development, and submitted a proposal. I was delighted to learn a few months later that my proposal was accepted, and that I was awarded the Opus Magnum grant by the two foundations. This grant freed me of teaching and administrative duties for a year and definitively facilitated writing a new book on memory development. I am indebted to Volkswagen Foundation and Thyssen Foundation for this generous support.

If I see it correctly, this is my last book on memory development. It completes a process started in the mid-1970s when my academic mentor and teacher Franz Weinert hired me as a research assistant. My first job was to come up with a list of publications on memory development written between the mid-1960s and mid-1970s. Although the resulting list was brief, it contained a number of studies that I found remarkable. I am very grateful to Franz Weinert for not only stimulating my interest in the topic but also for providing continuous support during the following decades. Another turning point was meeting John Flavell at a conference in Heidelberg organized by Franz Weinert. I was fortunate to receive a grant from Volkswagen Foundation and to spend an academic year with John at Stanford

University in the early 1980s. John has influenced my thinking on the development of memory and metamemory enormously, challenging me to think about memory differently than I would have otherwise. It was during this time that I met Michael Pressley and John Borkowski who stimulated my thinking and research on memory development for a long time.

Many other people deserve thanks for their contributions to my previous work and the writing of this book. My ideas about the development of memory and metacognition as well as about the memory-metamemory relationships have been expanded by discussions with my good friends and colleagues Patricia Bauer, Harry Bahrick, David Bjorklund, Stephen Ceci, Marcus Hasselhorn, Robert Kail, Asher Koriati, Joachim Körkel, Beth Kurtz-Costes, Ulman Lindenberger, Thomas Nelson, Peter Ornstein, Mitchell Rabinowitz, Elaine Reese, Claudia Roebers, Harriet Salatas-Waters, Robert Siegler, and Beate Sodian. I am particularly grateful to Elaine, Dave, Rob, and Peter for reading drafts of the manuscript and commenting on my chapters.

Given that I am not a native speaker of English, I benefited enormously from Jane Zagorski's thorough editing of the book chapters and her didactic qualities. I learned a lot about the subtleties of English by her thoughtful examples showing that several of my formally correct expressions did not sound right to a native speaker. My thanks also go to my coworker Michaela Pirkner who spent many hours with formally editing the manuscript and carefully checking the reference list. Last but not least I am very grateful to my wife Elisabeth for her never ending support, feedback, and encouragement throughout this project. I doubt that I would not have been able to finish it without her consistent help.

I dedicate this book to the memory of Michael Pressley, Thomas O. Nelson, and Franz E. Weinert, three outstanding scientists who contributed considerably to the development of my knowledge about memory and metacognition, and who passed away much too early. While they will be unable to read and comment on the book, I hope that the readers of this volume find it useful for their purposes. This book is intended for a number of audiences. It is meant as a coherent overview of recent trends in research on memory development for advanced undergraduate and graduate students, as well as for professionals. It is also a volume for my peers in that I try to provide clear stances on many of the major issues of the day. I hope that I wrote a book that summarizes the field well in a fashion that is interesting. Let me know what you think.

Wolfgang Schneider

Memory Development from Early Childhood Through
Emerging Adulthood

Schneider, W.

2015, XIII, 391 p. 44 illus., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-09610-0