Reaction Paper

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When a person has Bipolar Disorder, there is a significant likelihood that they have also experienced some degree of associated memory loss. This may have been due primarily to episodes of mania or depression, or to having undergone particular treatments (which may have been involuntary). There appears to be a great deal of variability between different individuals as to when memory loss is experienced and what period is lost. Probably most forget (at least somewhat) about their typical self during episodes. Some forget about episodes after they have passed, while others may struggle to remember important details from events that occurred prior to episodes. Then there are medications and other treatments that may introduce their own adverse effects on a person's ability to recall things. I consider reliable memory to be the most critical component of any individual's self-image and identity, therefore memory loss has unique potential to be the most personally devastating consequence of a mental illness.

Instead of using three moderately sized articles for this Reaction Paper as prescribed, I've decided to refer to five single-page articles and intend to relate them to the broader topic of memory loss. All five of my articles come from the closing sections of the two most recent issues of BP Magazine (Fall 2013 and Winter 2014) and should each be succinct enough to be relatively easy to read and remember, even when a person is having difficulty doing so with more lengthy articles.