
**Abstract:**

Richard McNally’s thoughtful commentary points to a non-controversial source of the fixation with Freud’s early theory of repression. At the same time, however, McNally’s account does not directly address the critical issue at the heart of my original article, namely that Freud’s later theory of repression is persistently misconceptualised and accompanied by a breakdown in critical inquiry. Although the account proposed by McNally does not necessarily contradict this proposal, other potential sources of bias should also be considered. In particular, the acrimony provoked by the recovered memory dispute and the prevalence of *ad hominem* attacks against Freud suggests that emotional factors may also be obscuring rigorous debate. Issues surrounding the scientific inquiry of Freud’s theory of repression are further discussed.