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TITLE: Memory, Emotions and Trauma.

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Sociological research has historically been about viewing and understanding the world external to the sociologist. However, with the rise of autoethnography as a methodology, the relationship of the sociologist to the research is no longer so clear.

This paper looks at the relationship between the sociologist's memory and emotions as they relate to research into the sociologist's own family. This is no 'academic' question, however. It is my own family that I write about.

How do I write about my own father's journey to Auschwitz and keep myself detached from it enough to write clearly, while at the same time understanding his trauma and my own relationship to it. How do I write about my parents and not make it about me? Can I detach myself enough to describe their journeys as well as my own?

While at first sight this may not render itself sociologically, all sociological analysis must understand the relationship between the researcher and the research. Much sociological analysis of the Holocaust has been written by people of Jewish background, but the discussion of the trauma that has been passed down through the generations has been generally lacking. This paper begins this discussion.