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## The Survival Processing Memory Effect Should Generalise to Source Memory, but It Doesn't

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### ABSTRACT

Numerous studies have shown that words judged for their relevance to a scenario of survival are remembered better than words from lists processed differently. Survival processing is even more effective than many mnemonic techniques. This has been interpreted as an evolutionary design feature of memory. It is argued that such a survival effect should be even more pronounced in remembering the context or source of the information. Two experiments used a source monitoring paradigm. Both studies did not find any evidence for enhanced context memory, thus questioning the evolutionary account of the survival processing effect. An alternative interpretation is discussed.

### KEYWORDS

Survival Processing, Source Memory, Evolutionary Psychology

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