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Pain Memory and Actualization: Opening and Foreclosing Possibilities

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This article aims to contribute to the discussion concerning the structures of the memory of pain. In particular, developing a phenomenological analysis of both pain and memory, it argues that (i) the specificity of the memory of pain should be assessed in relation to its implicit, bodily, and affective moments and to its actualization in present and future experience; (ii) the actualization of pain memory can both open up and foreclose possibilities for appropriate action and experience. It is argued that a crucial condition in order for pain memory to open up possibilities is the preservation of a basic kind of trustworthiness in oneself, in the world, and in others.