Stellingen

behorende bij het proefschrift “Health Complaints: Testing a Causal Role of Activated Illness-Memory in Symptom Reporting”

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1. It is still unclear whether activated illness memory networks cause increased health complaints or vice versa (this thesis).
2. A good subliminal priming experiment includes a manipulation check and several (non)replications (this thesis).
3. A simple online intervention can reduce health complaints in specific subgroups of people (this thesis).
4. Both patients and healthy subjects have an implicit memory bias for illness words, but this bias is stronger in patients (this thesis).
5. To break the vicious cycle in symptom reporting, studies of factors influencing attention to bodily signals are necessary.
6. “All that we are is the result of what we have thought. The mind is everything. What we think we become.” (Hindu Prince Gautama Siddharta, the founder of Buddhism, 563-483 B.C.).
7. Just because a symptom cannot be explained, does not deny its existence.
8. Interpretation by the mind is not always an exact translation of information received by the senses.
9. Researching medically unexplained symptoms is a great way to induce medically unexplained headaches in the researcher.
10. “The great tragedy of science - the slaying of a beautiful hypothesis by an ugly fact. Beauty, however, may lie in the forming of a hypothesis valid until the next slaughter.” (Thomas Henry Huxley, 1825-1895, English Biologist).
11. ”Hindsight is better than no sight”. 