An evaluation of the coping patterns of rape victims: Integration with a schema-based information processing model

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The current study sought to provide an expansion of Resick and Schnicke’s (1993) information processing model of interpersonal violence response. Their model posits that interpersonal violence threatens victims’ schematic beliefs and victims can resolve this threat through assimilation, accommodation, or overaccommodation. In addition, I hypothesize that how victims resolve schematic threat affects their coping strategies. To test this hypothesis, a cluster analysis of rape victims’ coping patterns was conducted. Victims’ coping patterns were related to distress, self-worth, and rape label in ways consistent with predictions. Thus, future research should focus on the implications of how victims integrate trauma with schemas.