Reviewer's report

Title: Autobiographical memory and hierarchical search strategies in depressed and non-depressed participants

Version: 4 Date: 7 September 2014

Reviewer: Jonathan Hill

Reviewer's report:

In the revision the statistical analyses are in my view much more appropriate, and the pattern of results stays the same which is reassuring. However the authors have still not justified the use of parametric analyses, nor reported on outliers which could drive the findings in this small sample. I am particularly concerned about the counts of each of the types of retrieval sequence. We need to see the ranges and whether or not the distributions are skewed. There is reference in the authors' response to 'transformed' data which implies they were skewed, in which case we need to know whether this was corrected for each comparison of means.

Regarding the organization of the paper, it would be better if the descriptions of the retrieval sequences were included in the method section rather than the results.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have not competing interests