**Dissociative Disorder**

**Dissociative disorders** occur when a sense of the self has become dissociated, or **separated,** from previous memories, thoughts, or feelings

**Types of Dissociative Disorders**

1. **Dissociative amnesia** is characterized by a loss of memory in reaction to a traumatic event
2. **Dissociative fugue** is characterized by a loss of identity resulting in fleeing, or traveling to a new location and beginning a brand new identity, while unaware of previous identity and life.
3. **Dissociative identity disorder** is a rare and controversial disorder in which a person experiences two or more distinct and alternating personalities. (Formerly called multiple-personality disorder, this disorder is rare. In order to be classified with this disorder, a person must have separate and non-interactive personalities; implying that each personality is unique and unaware of each other)

**Causes:** May be linked to child abuse and the defense mechanism of *repression*, which unconsciously banishes traumatic events and could eventually create a whole new personality.