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## NATIONAL SURVEY OF “CASES OF THE REINCARNATION TYPE” IN BRAZIL

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**Background:** Almost all the academic investigation of claimed past-life memories (CPLM) has involved children. However little is known about the profile and impact of CPLM on adults.

**Aims:** To investigate the profile of Brazilian CORT; the content of the CPLM and their influence on subject/family lives; the accuracy of children's CPLM; and the levels of religiosity/spirituality (R/S), happiness, and mental health and their associations with CPLM.

**Method:** Brazilians (no age limits) from all over the country were recruited through intense mass media announcements to answer an online questionnaire that included sociodemographics; CPLM features; and R/S, health, and happiness scales. We conducted in person detailed interviews with first-hand witnesses in children's cases, as well as documental analysis to verify associations between the CPLM and facts of the deceased individual's life. We used Bardin's content analysis of CPLM and descriptive and inferential statistical analysis.

**Results:** The final sample is composed of 426 participants, 94% adults and 6% children/adolescents. Most children are male (62%) and adults are female (79%). Most memories occurred spontaneously (82% adults; 92% children). Typical CORT features in adults and children's samples: birthmarks (54%, 29%); unlearned skills (48%, 33%); phobias (71%, 17%); phobias (30%, 21%). Among adults, most were spiritists (55%); the highest R/S dimension was “Values/Beliefs” 3.0 ( $\pm 1.06$ ) and the lowest was “Private Religious Practices” 18.7 ( $\pm 6.98$ ). 46% of the participants were above the cut-off point for Common Mental Disorders (CMD) and 39% for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Phobias predicted lower happiness OR 0.33 (CI 0.19-0.54) and higher CMD symptoms OR 3.99 (2.34-6.99). Phobias were associated with CMD OR 2.60 (1.51-4.57) and PTSD symptoms OR 1.79 (1.07-3.05) Content analysis of memories of adults revealed ordinary past lives, but with intense and traumatic suffering. Memories influenced the subject/family (48%), and in 44% of those in a negative way. 1778 minutes of interviews were performed with first-hand witnesses. One strong child case was associated with a birth defect determined by a head computed tomography scan.

**Conclusions:** This first national CORT survey enlarges the understating of adult cases. CPLM among adults seem not uncommon and can be associated with considerable distress and suffering, a relevant issue in clinical practice. We point to the need for more studies about prevalence, impact and proper clinical management.

**Keywords:** Life after death, Reincarnation, Past-life memories, Children, Mental health

## Publications

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