

National Survey of “Cases of the Reincarnation Type” in Brazil

ABSTRACT:

Background

Academic investigation of claimed past-life memories (CPLM) has been developed since the 1960s. More than 2500 cases known as Cases of the Reincarnation Type (CORT) have been verified by researchers at University of Virginia (USA). Despite the relevance and the significant amount of cases, little is known about the impact of PLM on claimers and adult cases.

Aims

To investigate the profile of Brazilian CORT; the accuracy of children's CPLM; and the associations between reports of PLM and current health, happiness, and religiosity/spirituality.

Method

Recruitment through media and events. Participants answered an online questionnaire with sociodemographic characteristics; memory features; religious/spiritual, health and happiness scales. Interviews with first-hand witnesses and children. Document analysis was performed to verify possible associations between the CPLM and facts that happened during the deceased individual's life. Bardin's content analysis of the reported PLM was performed. Descriptive and inferential statistical analysis was performed.

Results

$N = 426$, 94% adults, 6% children/adolescents. Most children are male (62%) and adults, female (79%). Spontaneous memories occurred in 82.4% of adults and 92% of children. Typical CORT features were present in adults and child samples: birthmarks (54%, 29%); skills not learned (48%, 33%); phobia (71%, 17%); philia (30%, 21%). Among adults, philia and phobia predicted higher levels of mental disorders.

Conclusions

This first national CORT survey found that adult cases have many similarities with children's and the persistence of memories in adulthood may be associated with mental health issues. Our findings may contribute to improved mental health care and future studies.

Keywords

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

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Published Work:

Moraes, L. J., & Moreira-Almeida, A. (2020). A comprehensive academic review of reincarnation research. *Journal of Parapsychology*, 84(2), 311-315. doi: 10.30891/jopar.2020.02.13

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Researcher's Contacts:

Alexander Moreira-Almeida, MD, PhD
Research Center in Spirituality and Health
School of Medicine, Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora (UFJF)
Avenida Eugênio do Nascimento s/n - Dom Bosco
36038330 - Juiz de Fora - MG
Brazil

Phone: +55 32 2102-3848

Email: alex.ma@medicina.ufjf.br