Near-Death Experiences: Life After "Death" and Credibility, a Mixed Method Design

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Definitions
- Near-death experiences (NDEs) – characteristically include a strong positive effect, dissociation from the physical body, and contain transcendental or mystical elements.
- Credibility – capacity for belief

Research Questions
- How do near-death experiences affect the quality of life of the individuals who experience them?
- How do demographics influence perceived credibility of self-reported near-death experiences?

Methodology
Three narratives of near-death experiences were examined in a qualitative meta-analysis to determine common themes.

Recipients of the survey were provided with four case studies that included narratives of near-death experiences, and the demographics of the individuals who experienced the near-death experience. Participants were then asked if they thought the narrative was credible and if the demographics influenced their response.

Abstract
The term near-death experience (NDE) encompasses a broad spectrum of experiences that typically occur when the physical body is under extreme duress or close to death. The goal of this study is to examine narratives of near-death experiences and distinguish their common themes and to examine perceived credibility of self-reported near-death experiences.

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Study</th>
<th>Yes %</th>
<th>No %</th>
<th>Unsure %</th>
<th>Most Influential Factor %</th>
<th>Least Influential Factor %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woody</td>
<td>57.14%</td>
<td>19.05%</td>
<td>23.81%</td>
<td>Religion 68.57%</td>
<td>Race 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panagore</td>
<td>0.4211</td>
<td>0.2368</td>
<td>0.3421</td>
<td>Religion 85.71%</td>
<td>Race 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>68.57%</td>
<td>17.14%</td>
<td>14.29%</td>
<td>Credentials 60.87%</td>
<td>Race 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arnold</td>
<td>0.5294</td>
<td>0.1765</td>
<td>0.2941</td>
<td>Religion 47.83% and</td>
<td>Credentials 47.83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Perceived Credibility

Q7: Do you believe her experience?

Yes
No
Unsure

Surviving Death

Citations

Conclusion
In the phenomenological study, near-death experiences were found to positively affect the quality of the subject’s life after having the near-death experience. In the survey investigating perceived credibility, religion was the most influential demographic in the credibility of self-reported near-death experiences.

Implications for Future Research
- Include a question on the survey about demographics of the participants to observe how those demographics influence the resulting data related perceived credibility.
- Clarify information in case studies to reduce participant confusion.
- Shorten survey to increase completion rate.