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NATIONAL SURVEY OF CASES OF REINCARNATION TYPE IN BRAZIL

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Background: Scientific studies regarding people who claim past lives memories (Cases of the Reincarnation Type) have been performed, but several challenges remain: few research groups, most studies carried out in reincarnationist cultures, participant-researcher language barrier, limited data about associations of these memories with happiness, health and religiosity/spirituality.

Aims: To investigate in a Brazilian national sample Cases of the Reincarnation Type, the accuracy of past-life memory claims and their associations with health, happiness, and religiosity/spirituality.

Method: The on-line national survey has been widely announced in some of the major Brazilian newspapers and TV networks, social media, spiritualist and academic groups. Participants answered a case-profile-questionnaire and scales of religiosity/spirituality (BMMRS-p), happiness (Subjective Happiness Scale), common mental disorders (SRQ-20) and PTSD (IES-R).

Preliminary results: 426 participants (402 adults, 9 adolescents, 15 children). Most are female (77%), have college degree (68%) and Spiritists (54%). Regarding their health, 69% have/had phobias during childhood (75% of these believe they are related to previous life and 71% still have it). Scored above the cutoff for common mental disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder 46% ($7,3 \pm 5,37$) and 39% ($4,43 \pm 3,42$) of adults, respectively. Memories had influenced life for 48%, either in a positive (37%) or a negative way (44%). Impact on attitudes/behavior were the most reported positive and on emotional states the most negative impacts. In multivariate analysis, presence of birthmarks/defects predicted lower happiness and higher mental disorders, religious commitment predicted the inverse. About the 15 children, past-life claims started with a mean age of 03 (± 1), spontaneously (93%), and mothers witnessed it (87%). Five cases showed birthmarks/defects; 6 unusual behavior/skills; 7 phobias and 4 phobias. The mean of post-traumatic stress disorder (13 ± 11) was under the cut off score (17). Next steps are to continue conducting content analysis of adult's memories and multivariate analysis for predictors of happiness, common mental disorders and post-traumatic stress symptoms. In addition, we will start in loco investigations to assess the accuracy of the claimed past-life memories in the most promising cases.

Keywords: Reincarnation, Past life memories, Mental health, Religiosity/spirituality.

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