

Review of: "God's characteristics as reported by near-death experiencers"

Wolf Axel Langewitz¹

¹ University of Basel

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Review God experiences

This is an interesting article that enlarges the data basis of experiences that are attributed to an encounter with something God-like.

However, the article and probably the whole field would in my view profit from a more thorough attempt to trace back these perceptions to Christian or Jewish descriptions of God's presence. Namely, spiritus sanctus and the way it is felt, has been a long-standing term in the respective literature (e.g. Ernst Benz: *Der Heilige Geist in Amerika*, Düsseldorf 1970, S.210 f). I am sure that literature on Pentecost communities and their ceremonies will offer rich material to illustrate experiences in the (assumed) presence of God or something Divine. Similar quotations might be found in the Jewish literature (see e.g. Peter Schäfer: *Die Vorstellung vom heiligen Geist in der rabbinischen Literatur*; München 1972, S. 64, 86).

Reports from medieval mystics are full of descriptions of immersion and rapture (i.e. being far away, in another place), again a German source (sorry for that): Heinrich Seuse: *Deutsche mystische Schriften*, aus dem Mittelhochdeutschen übertragen von Georg Hofmann, Düsseldorf 1966; S. 20f). Similar readings are widely available in the Italian, French, and English literature.

Given the large number of these historical reports and the experience reported in the paper, it would be interesting for readers to see that there is a long lasting history of similar moments.