

Appendix to the paper "Reincarnation Revisited"

Item wordings for questions on belief in reincarnation

Religious and Moral Pluralism (RAMP) Project 1999 (Forced-Choice)

What do you think happens to us after death?

1 = Nothing - death is the end.

2 = There is something, but I don't know what.

3 = We go either to heaven or to hell.

4 = We all go to heaven.

5 = We are reincarnated – that is, after our physical death we are born in this world again and again (GB: over and over again).

6 = We merge into some kind of eternal bliss after this life.

7 = Other.

8 = I don't know whether there is anything or not.

European Values Study 1999 & 2008 (single item, wordings identical in both waves)

“Do you believe in re-incarnation, that is, that we are born into this world again?”

1 = yes

2 = no

International Social Survey Project 2008

“Do you believe in: Reincarnation - being reborn in this world again and again?”

1 = Yes, definitely

2 = Yes, probably

3 = No, probably not

4 = No, definitely not

Religiosity in Germany 2006 (two stage design)

First stage (binary rating):

“Many religions address the question whether there is a life after death. We will now mention four different views about life after death. Would you please tell me for each statement whether you personally agree or disagree?”

- A) Not only our soul but also our body will resurrect.
- B) Only our soul continues to live.
- C) There is something but I don't know what.
- D) I believe in reincarnation, that is, we are born into this world again.
- E) Nothing happens. Death is the end.

Answer categories to all statements:

1 = tend to agree

2 = tend to disagree

Second stage (reduced forced-choice)

You just agreed with [number of statements respondent agreed with] statements about life after death. I will now read these statements again. Could you please tell me which one best describes your personal view?

(only if agreement (= 1) at first stage)

1 = Not only our soul but also our body will resurrect.

2 = Only our soul continues to live.

3 = There is something but I don't know what.

4 = After our physical death we are born in this world again and again (Reincarnation).

5 = Nothing happens. Death is the end.