

The Global Flourishing Study

Several hours in the middle of the night (that is from about 12-3 this morning) with a return of the feverish night sweat I'd had a few nights of a couple of weeks ago but thought I'd kicked after they went away when I stopped taking my habitual (and usually unnecessary) 1mg melatonin tab before bed.

Which means, several hours wondering if it's Covid or some other potentially fatal something or other (a Google search of Night sweats is not likely to reassure anyone, especially not octogenarians who have more than enough reason to wonder if every misstep or mishap during the day — moments of imbalance, blunders, wobbliness, confusion, lightheadness, sudden tiredness, blankness, shortness of breath, forgetfulness (all those nessesies, tweaks or fillips, blips or pulses in the area of the heart, etc.) — is IT, the beginning of the imminent end.

And then to find at the top of my web feed Lauren Jackson's article about her "Believing" series in the NYT (<https://www.nytimes.com/spotlight/believing>), documenting what she sees as a more or less recent revival of religion (or religiosity or "faith" or some such) in the US — a topic of more than passing concern to me because, as those who know me know, I have an abiding interest in how metaphysical beliefs affect socio-political behaviors; and how, in particular, the supernaturalism and eschatology of evangelical christianity devolves into not only weirdnesses like QAnon and demoniac pedo-necrophiliac porn, but straight-up white nationalist theocracy.

And then, to top it off, Jackson's referencing a major new cross-cultural multi-country study, including several articles on beliefs in supernatural beings and forces, afterlife, etc.

So, here are links to the introductory article on that study (which includes a full listing of the sub-parts) and my to-read selection. A good Sunday read for an elderly person in a feverish state of mind, no?

And, fwiw, the at-home Covid test I just took shows negative.

1. Wave I - Intro (Nature)

<https://www.nature.com/collections/eaicjffaf>

2. Chen et al - Sociodemographic variations of belief in life after death across 22 Countries (Sci Reports)

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-024-83541-x>

3. Chen et al - Childhood predictors of belief in life after death across 22 Countries (Sci Reports)

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-025-91615-7>

4. Aglozo et al - A cross-national analysis of demographic variation oin belief in God, gods, or spiritual forces across 22 Countries. (Sci Reports)

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-024-79103-w>

5. Woodberry et al - Cross-national variation in faith-sharing across religious traditions (Sci Reports)

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-024-83531-z>

6. Moon et al - Childhood predictors of adults' belief in God,gods or spiritual forces across 22 countries (Sci Reports)

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-025-98796-1>

7. Woodberry et al - Religious centrality across 22 Countries (Sci Reports)

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-025-99183-6>

8. Bradshaw et al - Childhood experiences and adult prayer or meditation in 22 countries around the world (Sci Reports)

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-025-99796-x>