

MAPPING THE CIRCUMSTANCES, PHENOMENOLOGY AND IMPACT OF AFTER-DEATH COMMUNICATIONS (ADCs): ANALYSIS OF NEW CASE COLLECTIONS AND EXTENSION TO OTHER CULTURES

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Background: ADCs occur when an individual unexpectedly perceives a deceased person in a manner that is interpreted as indicative of the continued survival of some aspect of that person. More detailed mapping of phenomenology, circumstances and impacts of ADCs specific to survival and childhood cases will enable a better understanding of the phenomenon.

Aims: To further explore ADCs to identify characteristic features, circumstances, and impacts. We will expand the database to include an Indian sample to extend our dataset.

Methods: Mixed methods analysis of our multinational surveys on the phenomenology of ADCs to consider characteristics, circumstances and impacts bearing on survival and cases involving children, with an emphasis on their implications for our understanding of children's spirituality.

Preliminary Results: A mixed method paper was published in English and German on the types of messages conveyed by the deceased, their state of mind, and the positive impact of ADCs on grief. This drew specifically on 235 cases collected in the German language. As envisaged, Kate Adams has written an excellent paper on meaning-making from ADCs in childhood and adolescence, and their implications for spiritual and religious education.

Conclusions: The analyses conducted so far indicate that a positive state of mind in the deceased facilitates the grief of percipients and promotes well-being. Encountering the deceased during childhood or youth can have long-lasting impacts on an individual's worldviews.

Keywords: After-death communication, Contact, Bereavement, Well-being

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Elsaesser, E., Roe, C. A., Cooper, C. E., Morrison, S., & Lorimer, D. (2025). Was Verstorbene mitteilen, was wir über ihren Gemütszustand erfahren und wie sich dies auf die Trauer auswirkt: Mixed-Methods-Analyse einer mehrsprachigen Fallsammlung spontaner Nachtod-Kontakte (NTK). *Zeitschrift für Anomalistik*, 25(2). Online-Artikel (43 pp.). https://www.anomalistik.de/images/pdf/zfa/JAnom25-2_242_Elsaesser-etal_de.pdf

Elsaesser, E., Roe, C. A., Cooper, C. E., Morrison, S., & Lorimer, D. (2025). What the deceased communicate, what we learn about their state of mind, and how this impacts grief: Mixed methods analysis of a multilingual case collection of spontaneous after-death communications (ADCs). *Zeitschrift für Anomalistik*, 25(2), 242–281. <https://doi.org/10.23793/zfa.2025.242>

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