Perception of Religious Experience by Adult Americans

Kim Brucker
Illinois Wesleyan University

Teodora Amoloza, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc


This is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.
©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
PERCEPTION OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE BY ADULT AMERICANS

Kim Brucker, Depts. of Psychology/Sociology and Anthropology
IWU Teodora Amoloza*

The effects of age, education, and family background on perception of one's relationship with God are examined using 1989 General Social Survey data. Younger respondents and older respondents are very likely to report having had a powerful religious experience, but the middle-aged ones are not. The older people feel closest to God. Results also show that among females, the more educated ones are less likely to have had a powerful religious experience. In addition, females who had at least one parent die before age 16 are more likely to feel extremely close to God than those females whose parents had divorced or separated. The findings show that there are very significant differences among age groups and some differences between genders when observing people's perception of their relationship with God. These should be taken into account by anyone working in the religious field or any other area that deals closely with people and their attitudes and beliefs.