

Near-death experiences within the scope of consciousness

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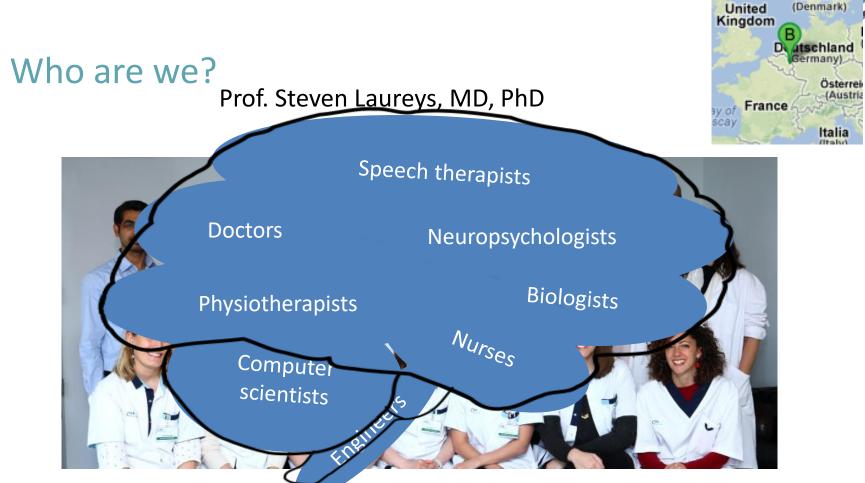


Institution of public utility









Danmark

Coma Science Group – GIGA-Consciousness

Near-death experiences (NDEs)

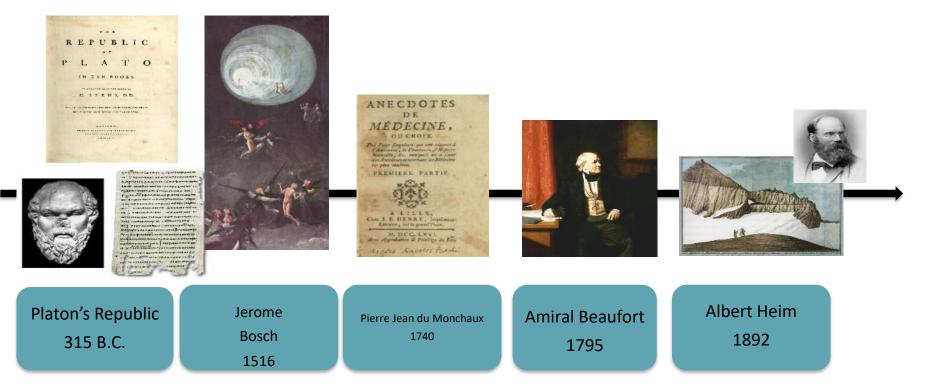
- No universally accepted definition but...
- can be defined as "profound psychological events with transcendental & mystical elements typically occurring to individuals close to death or in situations of intense physical or emotional danger"
- Incidence:
 - 23% of cardiac arrest survivors
 - 3% of traumatic brain injury survivors
 - 5% of the general population
- 2 main explanatory models:
- Spiritual theories \rightarrow "dualistic" approach toward the mind–brain relationship
- Neurobiological theories \rightarrow brain mechanisms might underlie NDEs



Representation of "Ascent of the Blessed" from Hieronymus Bosch (1505)

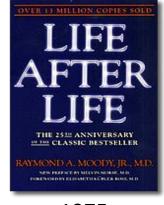


Historical background

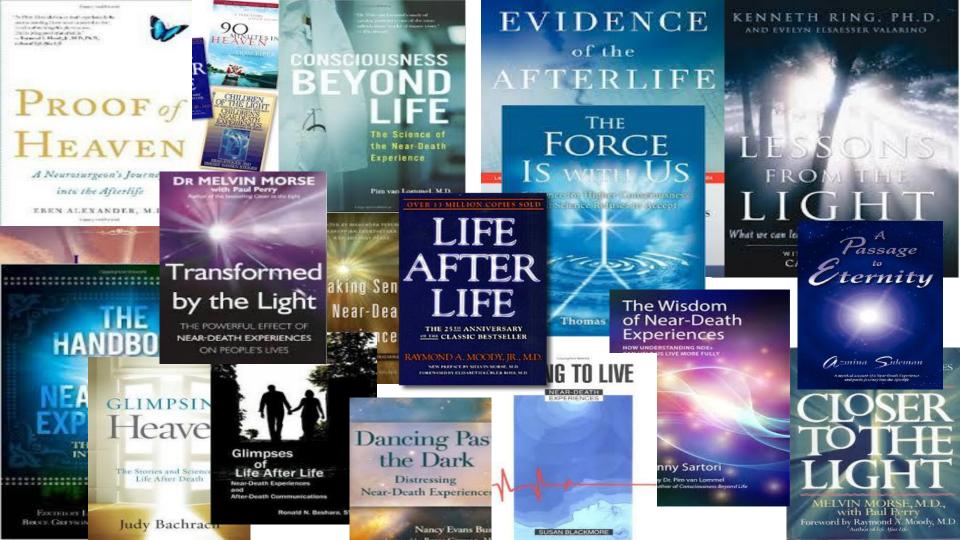




NDE testimonies & stories



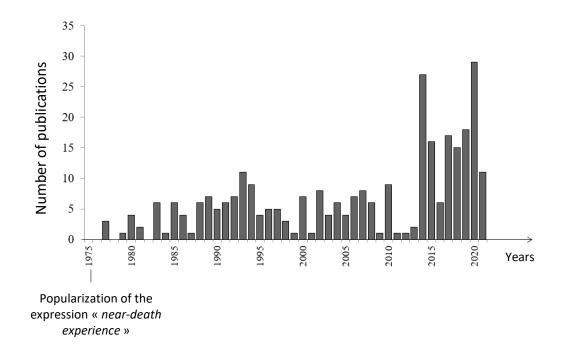
1975





Research on NDEs

Number of publications per year (for a total of 355 publications): Medline search with the keyword *'near-death experiences'*

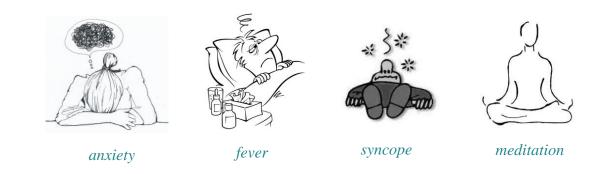


Barra*, Carrière*, et al., 2020



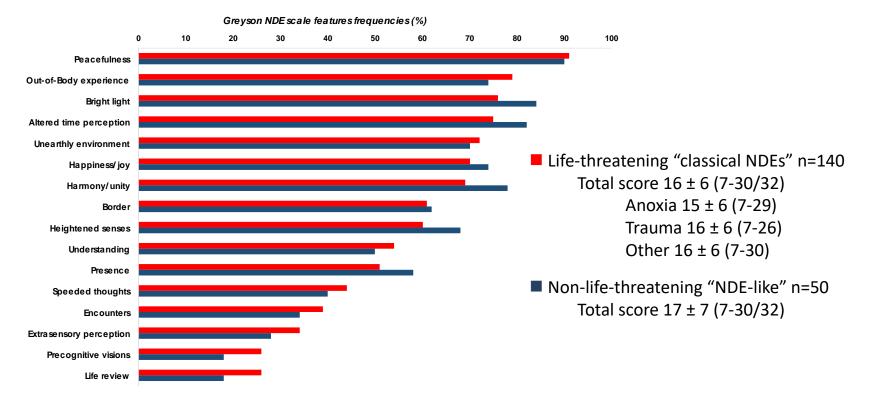
"Near-death-like" experience

- A similar content/phenomenology
- But in non-life-threatening situations
- Proximity to death?

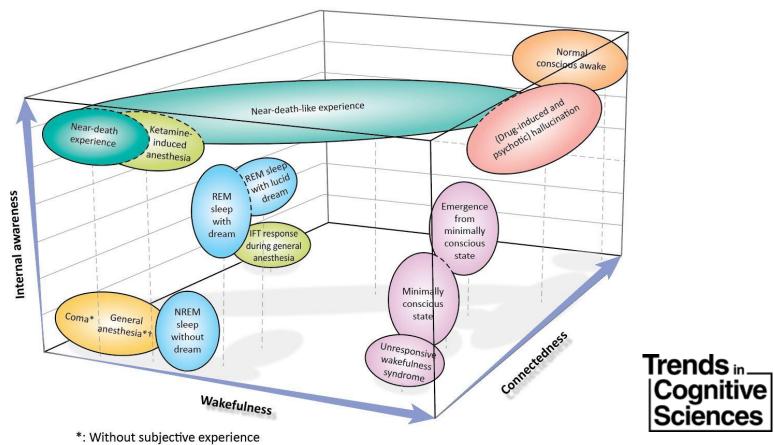




Frequency of NDE(-like) features



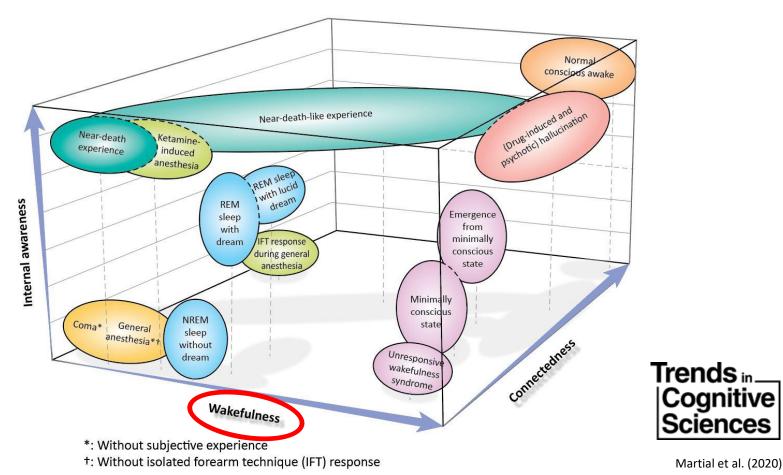




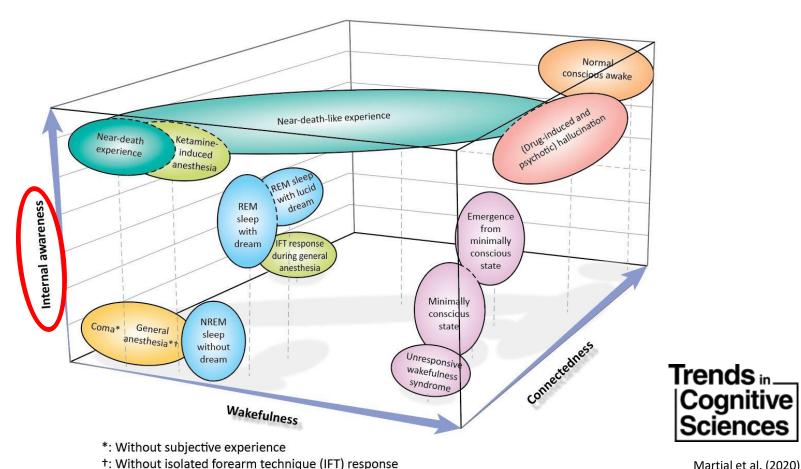
Martial et al. (2020)

+: Without isolated forearm technique (IFT) response

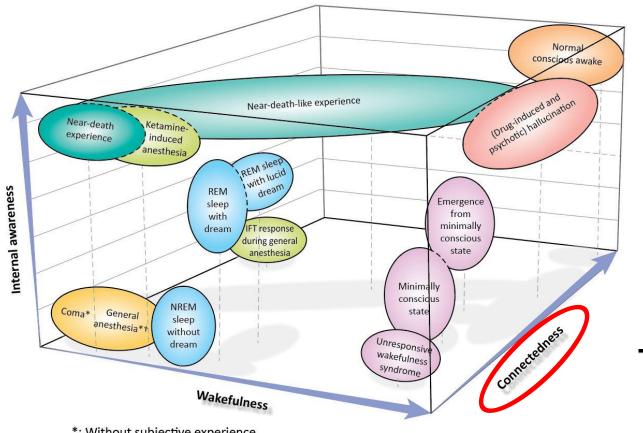










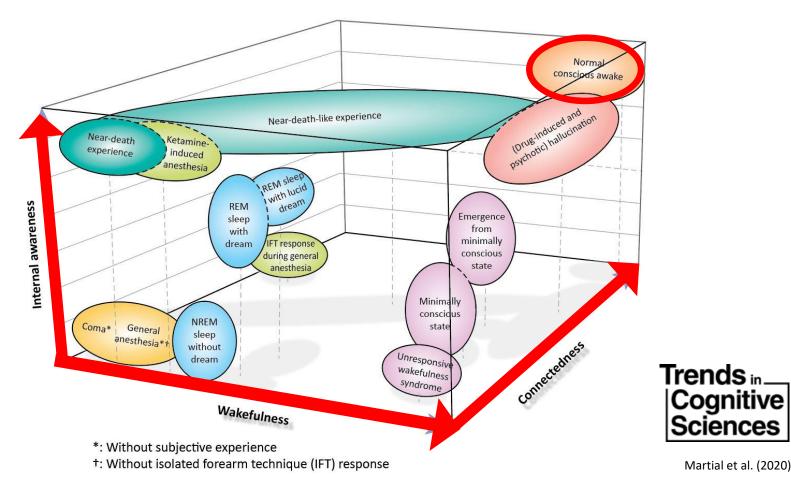


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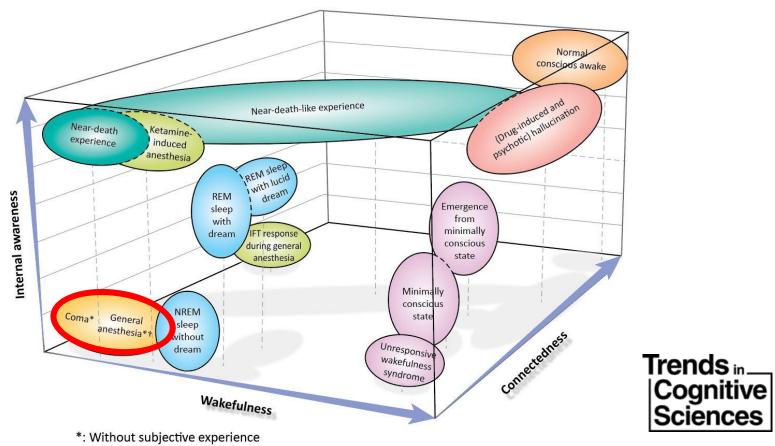
*: Without subjective experience

+: Without isolated forearm technique (IFT) response



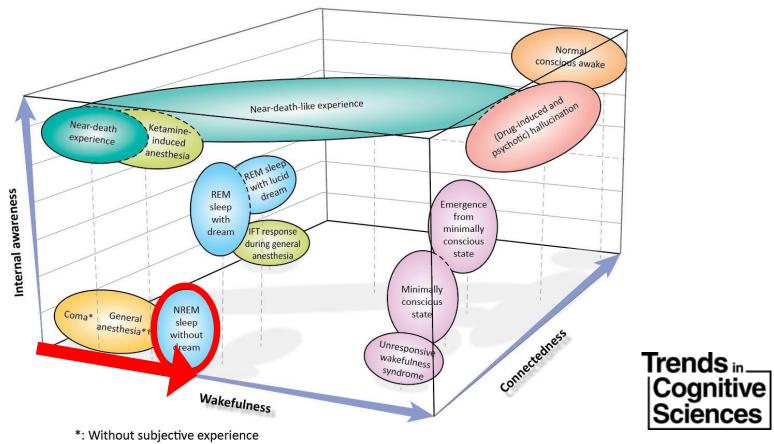






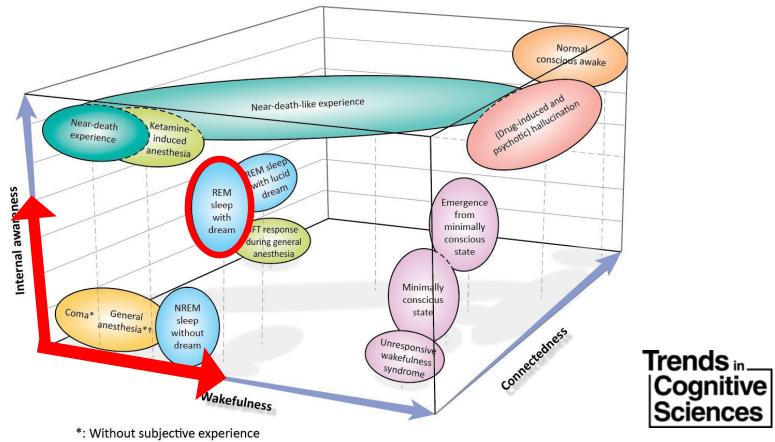
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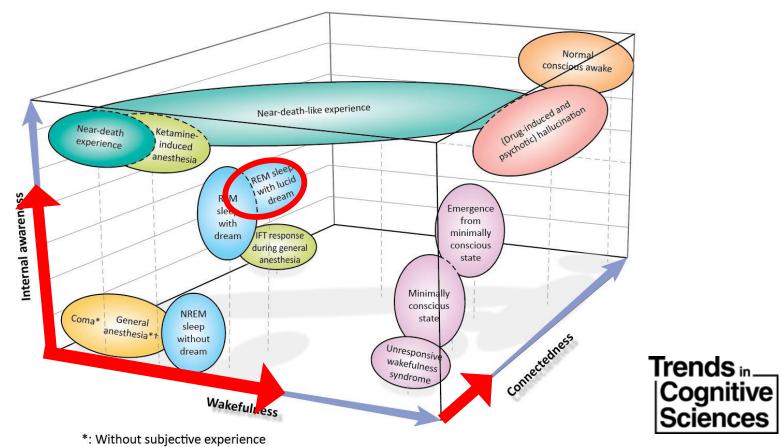
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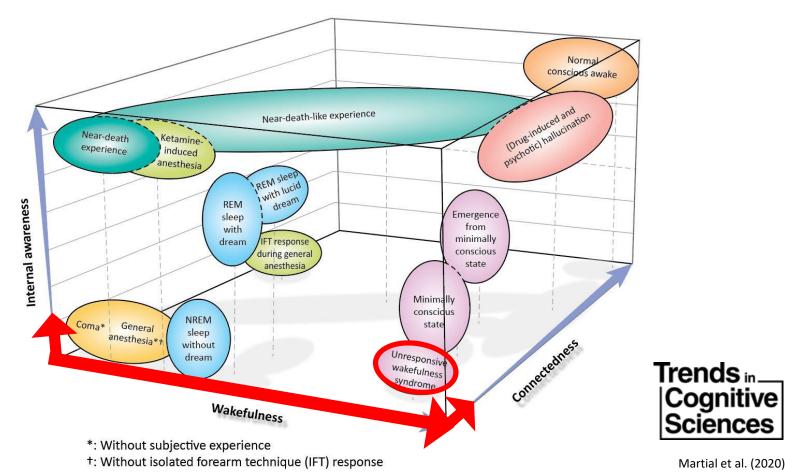




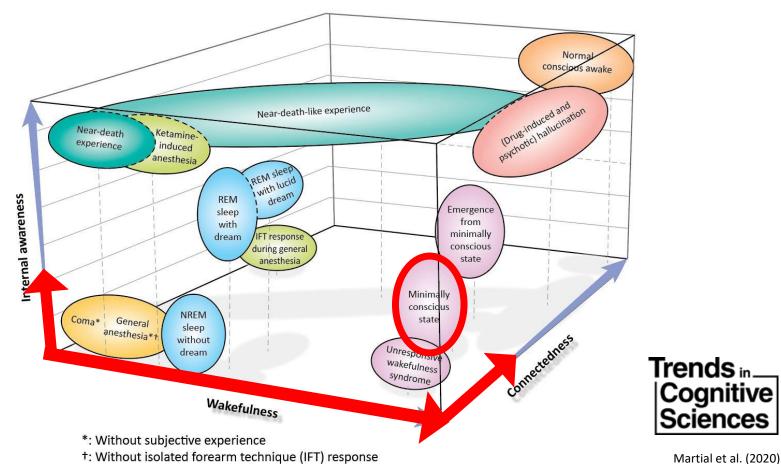
Martial et al. (2020)

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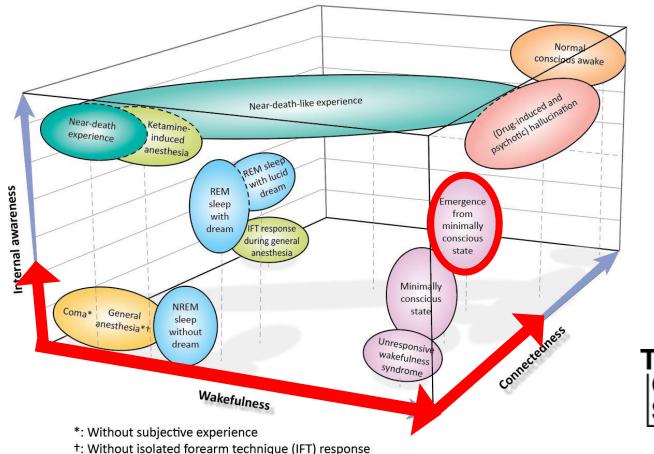






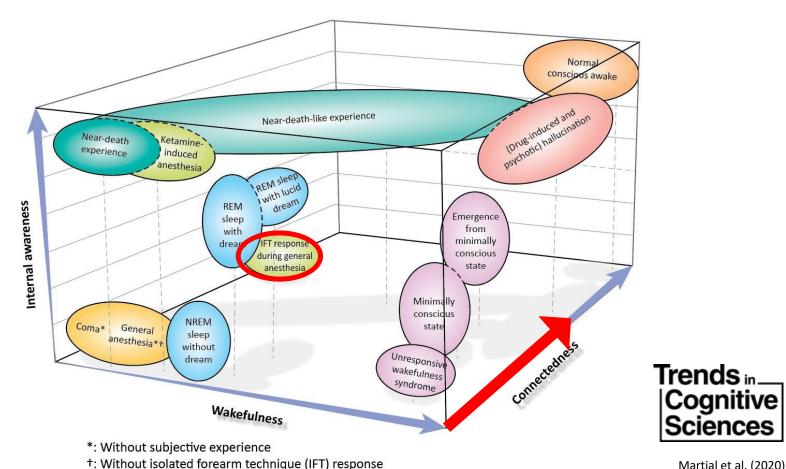




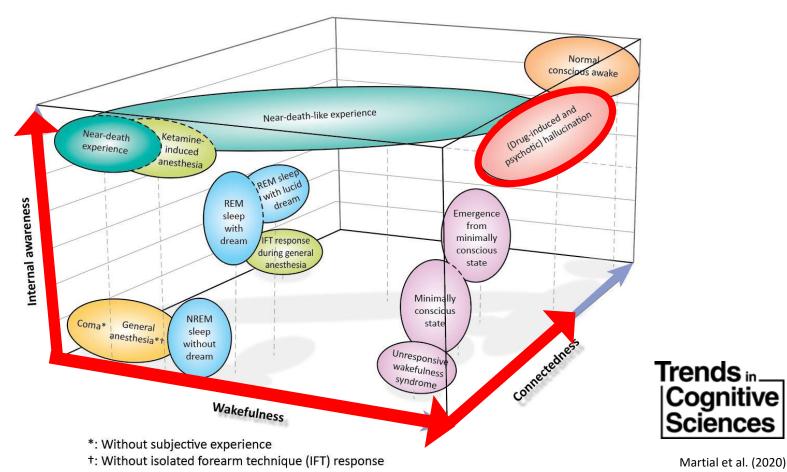


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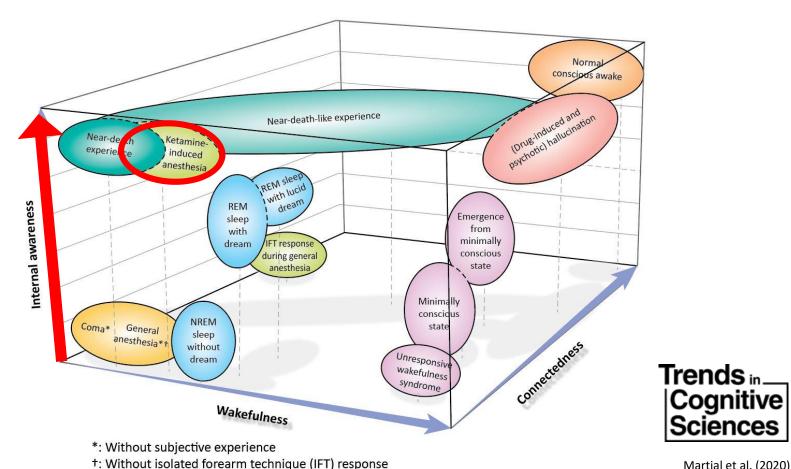




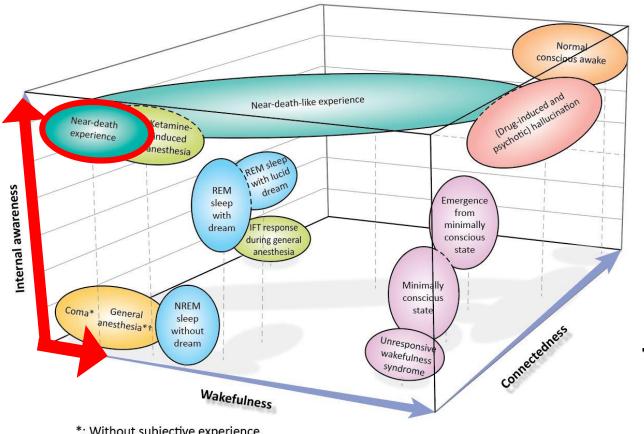










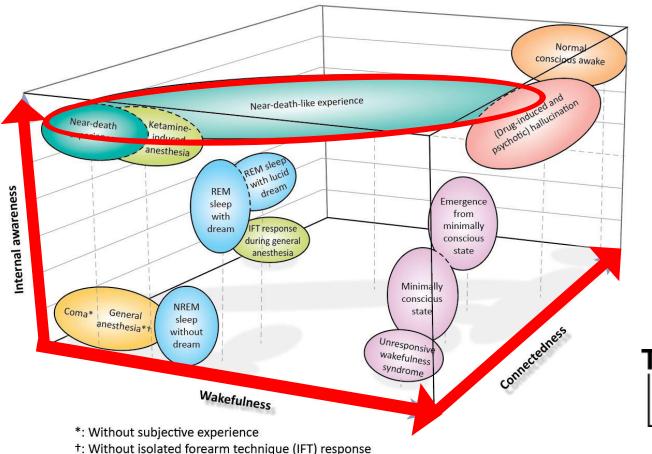


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*: Without subjective experience

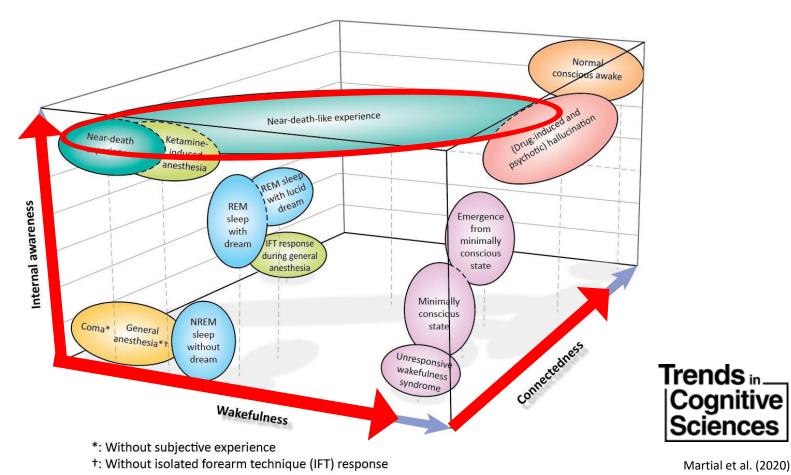
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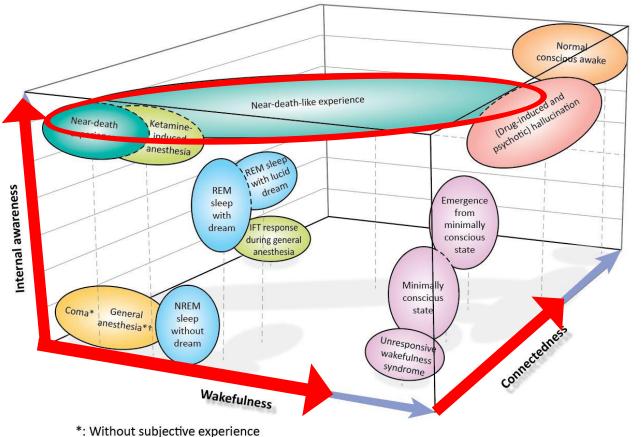


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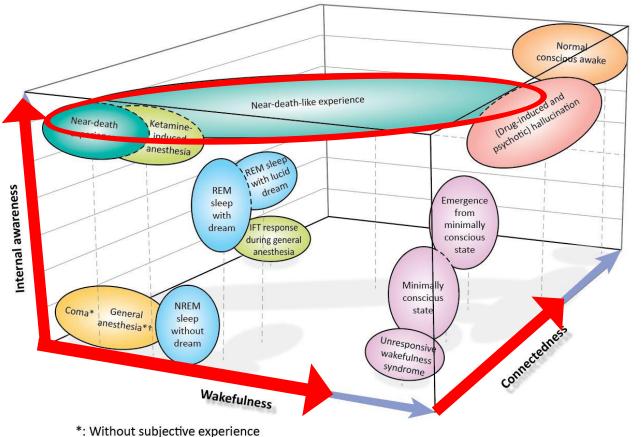




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Without subjective experience
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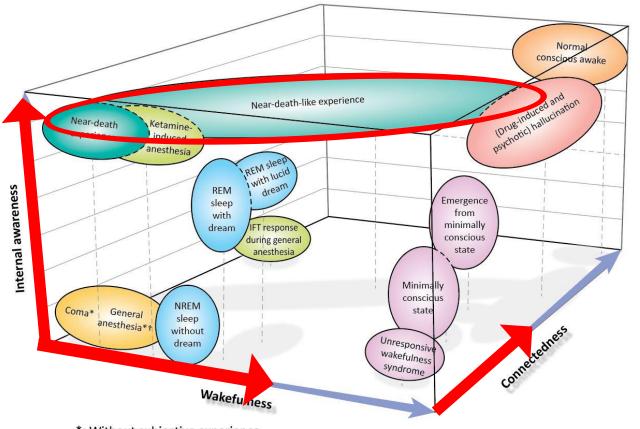




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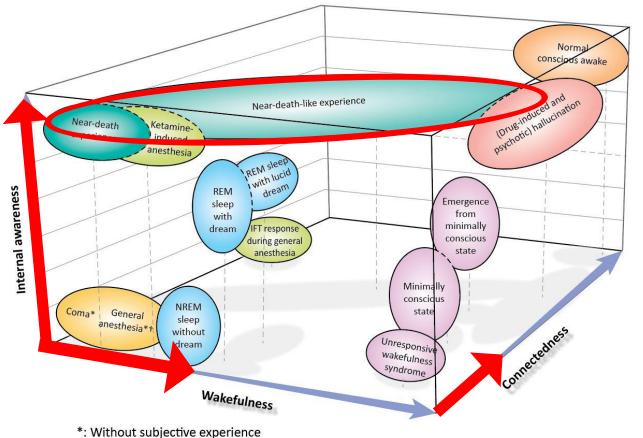


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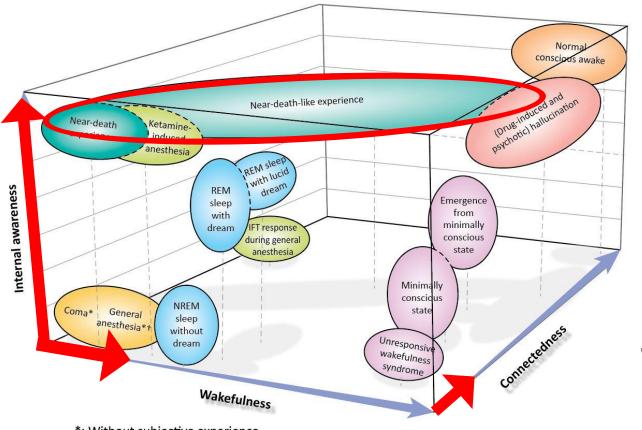




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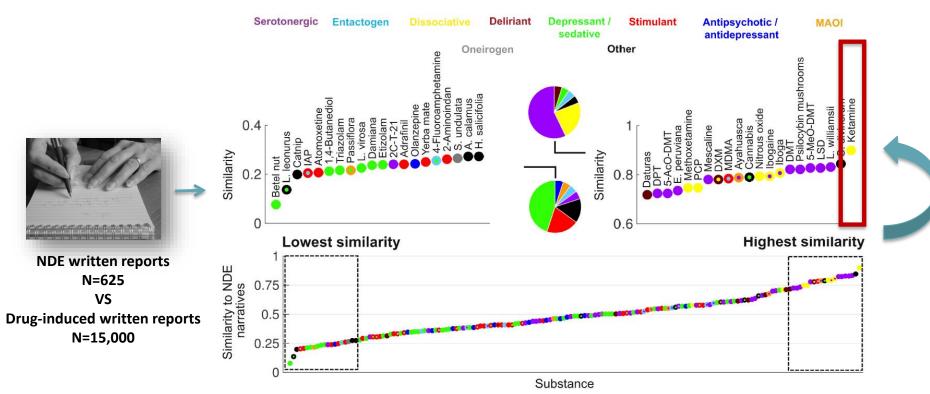
Trends in_____ Cognitive Sciences

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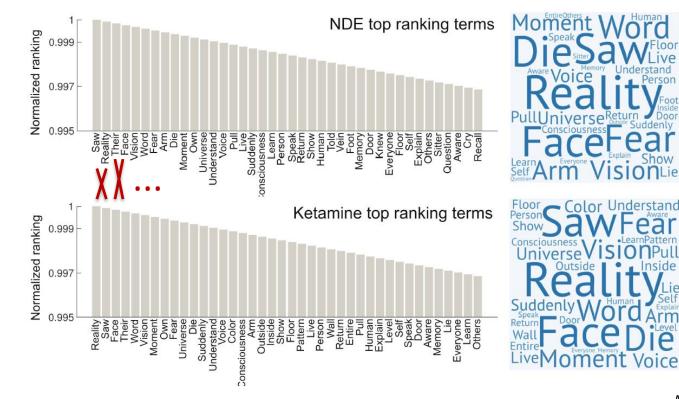
Semantic similarity with drug-induced experiences



Martial* & Cassol*, et al. (2020)



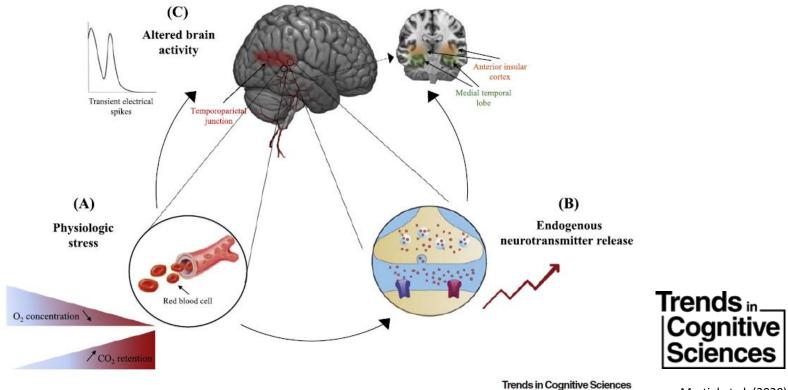
Semantic similarity with Ketamine experiences



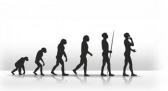
Martial* & Cassol*, et al. (2020)



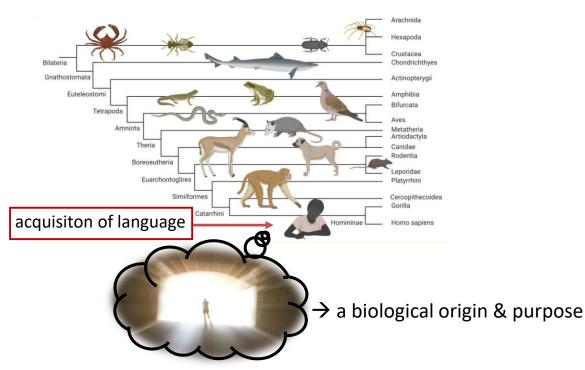
Illustration of neurophysiological mechanisms







Thanatosis is well preserved though evolution

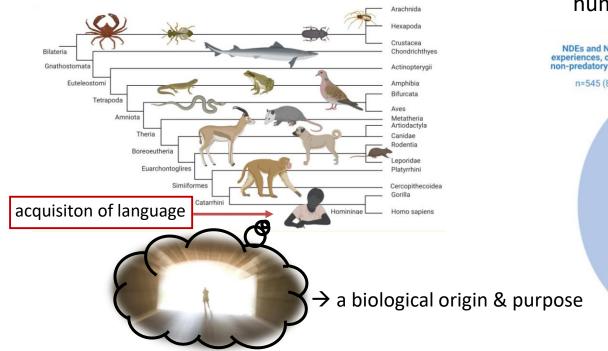


Peinkhofer* & Martial*, et al. (2021)

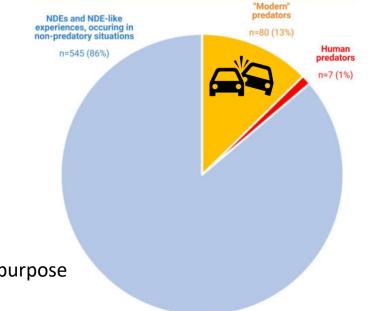


The evolutionary origin of NDEs ?

Thanatosis is well preserved though evolution



NDEs can occur with attacks from human & 'modern' predators



Peinkhofer* & Martial*, et al. (2021)



Conclusion

- NDE within the scope of consciousness :
 - Classical NDE \rightarrow level of wakefulness
 - \rightarrow / level of internal awareness
 - \rightarrow level of connectedness
 - NDE-like \rightarrow / or level of wakefulness
 - \rightarrow / or level of internal awareness
 - \rightarrow /or level of connectedness

If you have experienced a NDE that you would like to share it with us, please contact us at nde@uliege.be











Thanks!

