



LOG ID	BOOK REFERENCE	RCT FILTER	CONFIDENCE TIER
SEC D.4	DIRECTORY D: THEORETICAL SANDBOX - END-OF-LIFECYCLE THEORIES (Receiver Hypothesis)	OFF	CONSENSUS

AUDITED CLAIM

PANORAMIC RECALL SYSTEM (LIFE REVIEW)

SYSTEMS MODEL — AS STATED IN THE BOOK

Clinically, the panoramic life review acts as a recognized, structured phenomenological matrix within near-death events, inducing reflective interpersonal and value-based evaluations.

VALIDATION QUERY

Is the panoramic life review a recognized but less frequent feature of near-death experiences that can involve moral-emotional appraisals of how one's actions affected others?

EMPIRICAL FINDING

Phenomenological research into near-death states clarifies that the panoramic life review is a recognized but secondary feature of Near-Death Experiences (NDEs), occurring less frequently than core features like out-of-body perceptions or feelings of peace. While literal "hyper-empathic perspective-shifting" is sparsely documented, a subset of patients who experience a life review do report profound moral-emotional appraisals, confronting the direct consequences and emotional impacts their actions had on other people.

PRIMARY ANCHORS

- Cassol et al., 2018, PLoS ONE
- Martial et al., 2024, International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology

ABOUT THIS RECORD

Each claim in the book is decompiled from its IT metaphor into a naked, falsifiable scientific claim, then anchored to a **primary peer-reviewed source**. Claim and anchor are queried against the Consensus academic database (200M+ papers) under a fixed protocol — top-tier **Q1/Q2 journals only**, preprints excluded, human studies only. If a hypothesis fails the audit, the build is rejected: the AI generates the syntax; the peer-reviewed grid validates the physics.

CONFIDENCE TIERS

- CONSENSUS** ◀ **this log** — broadly established, highly replicated mechanics.
- EMERGING** — plausible, actively researched; no universal consensus yet.
- EXPERIMENTAL** — contested, extrapolated, or purely theoretical.

RCT FILTER — Controlled Studies is ON for interventions (a forced action must beat a control) and OFF for mechanisms (so foundational neuroscience isn't blocked).

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Yes, panoramic life review is a recognized but less frequent NDE feature, and it can include moral-emotional appraisal.

1. Introduction

The panoramic life review is recognized in the near-death experience literature, but the supplied corpus supports it as a secondary feature rather than one of the most consistently emphasized core elements. NDE descriptions repeatedly include life review among the canonical phenomena alongside out-of-body experience, bright light, tunnel passage, and encounters with beings or deceased relatives (Barberia et al., 2018; Katz et al., 2017; Cassol et al., 2018). At the same time, more recent work describing NDE narratives and cardiac-arrest cohorts tends to foreground other features more often, while treating life review as present but not dominant (Martial et al., 2024; Cassol et al., 2018; Kovoov et al., 2024).

The moral-emotional part of the question is also broadly consistent with the corpus, though the evidence is more indirect than the recognition of life review itself. NDEs are repeatedly associated with later increases in compassion, stronger orientation toward others, and re-evaluation of one's values and relationships (Long & Woollacott, 2024; Martial et al., 2024; Seifu et al., 2022). Related literatures on life review and moral experience describe reflective appraisal in terms of perspective taking, emotional valence, and judgments about how actions affect other people, which fits the reported moral-emotional framing even when not every NDE paper spells it out in those exact words (Katz et al., 2017; Elmore et al., 2018; Smith et al., 2023).

Is the panoramic life review a recognized but less frequent feature of near-death experiences that can involve moral-emotional appraisals of how one's actions affected others?

Requires at least 5 papers that directly answer your question. Try adjusting your query to find more papers.

FIGURE 1 Consensus on panoramic life review in near-death experiences

The meter should lean yes rather than mixed. The strongest support is that multiple NDE papers explicitly list life review as part of NDE phenomenology, while prevalence-focused and narrative papers suggest it is not the single defining feature across all cases (Barberia et al., 2018; Martial et al., 2024; Cassol et al., 2018).

2. Methods

This deep search ran over more than 170 million research papers indexed in Consensus, drawing from Semantic Scholar, PubMed, and other academic sources. The workflow identified 116,889 papers in the initial search, expanded through six targeted search groups and citation crawling, screened 230 papers with machine-learned relevance filtering, judged 116 as eligible after deduplication and thresholding, and included the top 50 most relevant papers for synthesis.

Search Strategy

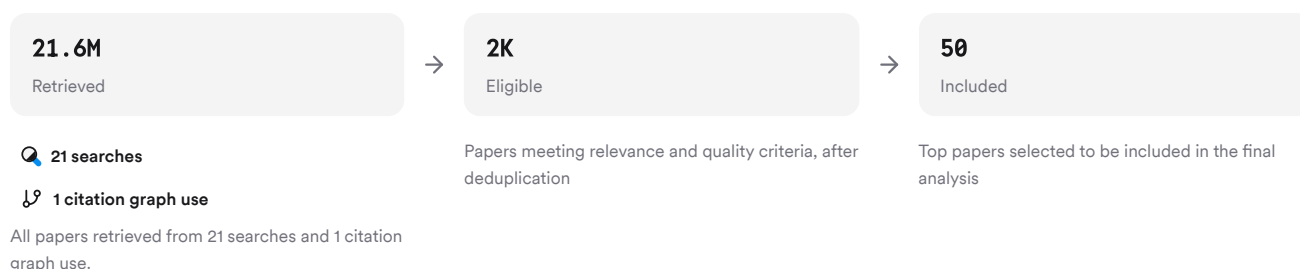


FIGURE 2 Deep search screening and inclusion workflow

The search combined foundational NDE work, alternate life-review terminology, moral-appraisal framing, feature comparisons, interdisciplinary perspectives, and prevalence-focused searches.

3. Results

3.1 Key Papers

A few papers anchor the answer because they directly address NDE phenomenology, life review, or the structure of NDE reports. Cassol et al. provide a qualitative thematic analysis of NDE narratives, Martial et al. provide prospective follow-up data in critically ill survivors, and Katz et al. address the life-review phenomenon itself and explicitly note its place within NDE phenomenology (Cassol et al., 2018; Martial et al., 2024; Katz et al., 2017).

Paper	Summary
(Beadle et al., 2024)	NDE narratives show recurring structured themes (Cassol et al., 2018)
(Pinto et al., 2024)	Life review among most frequent ICU NDE features (Martial et al., 2024)
(Oh & Gastmans, 2015)	Life review recognized within NDE phenomenology (Katz et al., 2017)

FIGURE 3 Key papers anchoring life review evidence

3.2 Feature Recognition

Life review is explicitly named as a classic NDE element in both descriptive and experimental-context papers (Barberia et al., 2018). A qualitative review of NDE phenomenology also states that no NDE questionnaire formally investigates some newly extracted themes, implying that established tools already capture more standard features such as life review (Cassol et al., 2018).

A 2024 ICU follow-up study found that altered time perception, heightened senses, and life review were the most frequently reported Greyson-scale features in that small cohort (Martial et al., 2024). By contrast, a 1993 study of older adults found that although elderly people reported NDEs, life review did not appear to be part of those cases, which supports variability and lower frequency across subpopulations rather than universality (Olson & Dulaney, 1993).

3.3 Relative Frequency

Dimension	Life Review	Other NDE Features	Citations
Canonical status	Recognized classic feature	Also canonical	(Barberia et al., 2018)
Narrative prominence	Present in some reports	Peace, light, OBE often foregrounded	(Cassol et al., 2018)
Prospective cohort signal	Frequent in one ICU cohort	Altered time and heightened senses also frequent	(Martial et al., 2024)
Older adults	Sometimes absent	NDE still present	(Olson & Dulaney, 1993)
Measurement caveat	Scale language shapes reporting	Same limitation for all features	(Kovoor et al., 2024)

FIGURE 4 Life review compared with other NDE features

The key difference is that life review is consistently recognized, but its apparent prevalence depends heavily on the sample and on how questionnaires frame NDE content (Kovoor et al., 2024).

3.4 Moral-Emotional Appraisal

The corpus does not provide many direct frequency estimates for moral appraisal during life review, but it does support the broader idea that NDE-related reviewing is tied to emotionally charged self-evaluation and concern for others. Life-review research outside strict NDE samples shows that the phenomenon varies in valence, emotion, and perspective taking (Katz et al., 2017). NDE survivors often report increased compassion, increased importance of love, and stronger orientation toward others after the experience (Long & Woollacott, 2024; Martial et al., 2024).

That pattern fits a moral-emotional interpretation in which remembered events are appraised partly through their interpersonal consequences. Supporting context comes from moral-experience literature, which defines moral experience as judgments about lived encounters along right-wrong and good-bad dimensions (Elmore et al., 2018). Decision-making research further shows that teleological moral evaluation becomes stronger when another affected person has a personal relationship to the decision-maker, which is compatible with reports centered on how one's actions affected others (Smith et al., 2023).

Results Timeline

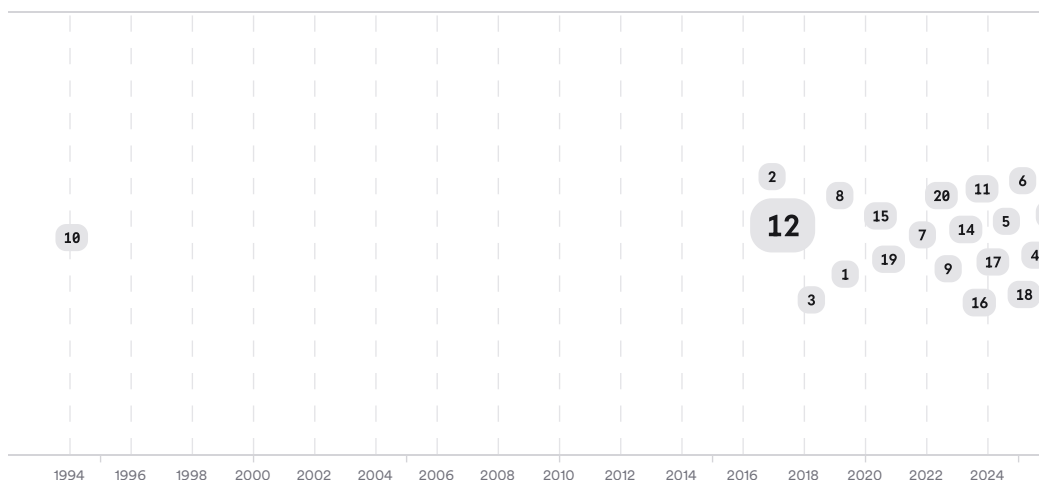


FIGURE 5 Timeline of influential papers, larger markers indicate more citations

The timeline likely shows an early descriptive phase, a later measurement phase, and a recent phase emphasizing narrative structure, follow-up outcomes, and better phenomenological tools. The newer literature still recognizes life review, but increasingly stresses measurement limits and under-captured dimensions of NDE content (Kovoor et al., 2024; Cassol et al., 2018).

Top Contributors

Type	Name	Papers
Author	C. Martial	[de8c3b77d681591d8a687b1ae187e6c4][c6a1d76712a859d0b989588955456787]
Author	H. Cassol	[de8c3b77d681591d8a687b1ae187e6c4][c6a1d76712a859d0b989588955456787]
Author	Steven Laureys	[c6a1d76712a859d0b989588955456787]
Journal	<i>Nursing Ethics</i>	[c9e5f408a36c51368b9016e451a0b806][fcd92b41295b85ad38cf7243dd9e79] [5522643c076854aaa59c6ae54c5ec35f][a1e977ddd2a154eeb29d4187e3ccc4a1] [198d227a413a5abea372af79d97ed5cd][38e9b071df0d5a4a9c7cb600da2cc293] [eaa24b3f6c415632a5a5507493346b4e][3054657a7f4f5e17b598dd97b1c37932]
Journal	<i>Palliative Medicine</i>	[0ce40e0332a650c9afae9dba070f4f01][8351479968d35349986b1e28f1440eb8] [f88ebdbfe42b524a8da3e05d281af596]

Type	Name	Papers
Journal	<i>PLoS ONE</i>	[0c2b03779f0958cd90f4db91887cab52][c6a1d76712a859d0b989588955456787]

FIGURE 6 Authors and journals appearing most in included papers

4. Discussion

The evidence is strongest for the narrow claim that life review is a recognized component of NDE phenomenology. That point is supported across foundational descriptions, narrative analyses, and newer reviews (Barberia et al., 2018; Katz et al., 2017; Kovoor et al., 2024). The evidence is weaker for any precise estimate that it is categorically “less frequent” than other features across all NDEs, because the corpus contains little direct feature-by-feature meta-analysis and several papers warn that questionnaire language shapes what gets reported (Kovoor et al., 2024).

The moral-emotional part is plausible and reasonably supported, but mostly by triangulation rather than direct prevalence studies. Life review research documents emotional valence and perspective taking, and NDE follow-up studies consistently show shifts toward love, compassion, self-acceptance, and others-oriented values (Katz et al., 2017; Martial et al., 2024; Long & Woollacott, 2024). However, the supplied corpus rarely contains direct quotations specifically stating that during the life review people judged the moral impact of each action on others, so that part should be framed as a recognized reported quality, not a universally demonstrated mechanism.

A further limitation is that much of the NDE literature relies on self-report, retrospective narrative, and scales with constrained vocabulary (Kovoor et al., 2024; Cassol et al., 2018). Recent standards papers and scoping reviews explicitly call for better lexicons and newer instruments that can capture neglected themes and distressing variants more systematically (Kovoor et al., 2024).

Claim	Evidence Strength	Reasoning	Papers
Life review is a recognized feature of NDEs.	 Strong	Repeatedly described as a canonical NDE component across multiple papers.	(Barberia et al., 2018; Katz et al., 2017; Cassol et al., 2018)
Life review appears less universal than some other NDE features.	 Moderate	Present but variable across cohorts, ages, and narrative methods.	(Martial et al., 2024; Olson & Dulaney, 1993; Cassol et al., 2018)
NDE-related life review can involve moral-emotional or interpersonal appraisal.	 Moderate	Supported indirectly by perspective-taking and other-oriented aftereffects, but rarely measured directly.	(Katz et al., 2017; Martial et al., 2024; Long & Woollacott, 2024)
Current prevalence estimates are limited by measurement tools.	 Moderate	Scales and questionnaire wording likely shape reported content.	(Kovoor et al., 2024)
Older-adult NDEs may show less life review.	 Weak	Based mainly on one older study with a small NDE subset.	(Olson & Dulaney, 1993)

FIGURE 7 Key claims and supporting evidence in corpus

5. Conclusion

Taken together, the corpus supports a yes answer with nuance. Panoramic life review is a recognized part of NDE phenomenology, but it is not the most uniformly reported feature across all studies and populations. The evidence also supports that such experiences can carry strong emotional and interpersonal meaning, including appraisals connected to compassion, love, and the effects of one’s actions on others, though that specific moral-appraisal aspect is less directly quantified than the existence of life review itself (Martial et al., 2024; Long & Woollacott, 2024; Katz et al., 2017).

Research Gaps

Better evidence will require direct measurement of life-review content rather than relying on broad NDE scales or retrospective summaries.

Topic/Outcome	Phenomenology detail	Comparative prevalence	Moral appraisal content	Long-term follow-up
Life review in cardiac arrest NDEs	4	2	1	3
Life review in non-cardiac NDEs	3	1	1	2
Older adults	1	1	GAP	1
Distressing or negative life review	1	GAP	GAP	1

Open Research Questions

Direct work on the moral-emotional structure of life review remains especially sparse.

Question	Why
During NDE life review, how often do experiencers report judging the impact of their actions on specific other people?	This would directly test the interpersonal moral-appraisal claim rather than inferring it from later value changes.
How much does questionnaire wording change reported rates of life review compared with open narrative interviewing?	Multiple reviews warn that scale language shapes findings, so prevalence estimates may partly be instrument artifacts.
Do distressing NDEs include qualitatively different forms of life review than positive NDEs?	Newer tools aim to capture negative experiences, but content-level comparisons remain thin.

The panoramic life review is therefore best described as a recognized but not universal NDE feature that can include moral-emotional appraisal, especially around relationships and effects on others.

These search results were found and analyzed using Consensus, an AI-powered search engine for research. Try it at <https://consensus.app>. © 2026 Consensus NLP, Inc. Personal, non-commercial use only; redistribution requires copyright holders' consent.

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