

Does the belief in guardian angels make people more cautious?

September 23 2014

While many believe that guardian angels watch over to keep them safe in a dangerous world, a new study finds that those who believe are actually less inclined to take risks despite this believed protection. This study was published today in the open access journal *SAGE Open*.

Researchers David Etkin, Jelena Ivanova, Susan MacGregor, and Alalia Spektor surveyed 198 [individuals](#) and found that of those who believe in guardian angels, 68% said that this belief affects how they take [risks](#).

While some expressed that the belief in guardian angels might make them more risky, the majority are more averse to taking risks than their non-believing counterparts. For example, when asked to provide their opinion about risky driving, the majority of those who do not believe in guardian angels felt that driving 20 km/h over the speed limit was a risk level of two on a scale of one to five, while the majority of those who do believe in guardian angels believed that it was a risk level of three.

"It may be that people who have a tendency to view the world as being risky or potentially dangerous are more inclined to have a [belief](#) in personal guardian spirits," the researchers commented.

More information: "Risk Perception and Belief in Guardian Spirits" *SAGE Open*, 2014..

Provided by SAGE Publications

Citation: Does the belief in guardian angels make people more cautious? (2014, September 23)
retrieved 20 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-09-belief-guardian-angels-people-cautious.html>

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