

Grace: Where heaven meets earth

An interdisciplinary project to unravel the experience of ‘grace’.



Doctoral Project aim

Clarification of the experience of ‘grace’ from the perspective of lay-persons in a secularized society

- bottom-up lay-definition of grace
- insight in the lived experience of grace
- scale-construction (experience of grace, openness for grace)
- relation grace and other virtues (e.g. humility, forgiveness)

Content Powerpoint-Poster

- Results study: bottom-up lay-definition of grace
- Results study: narratives of personal experiences of grace



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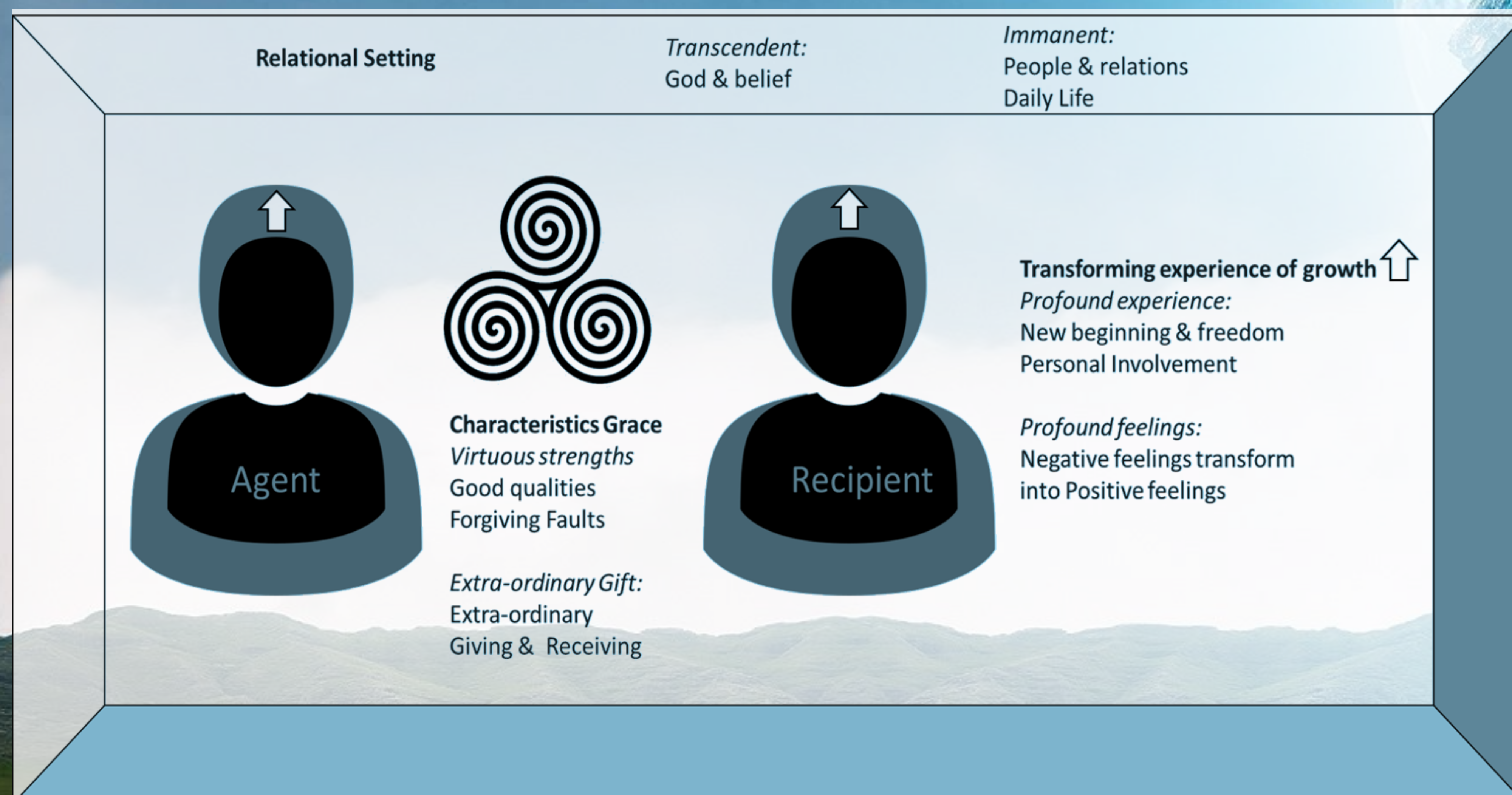


Study Lay Definition of Grace

- 450 lay descriptions of grace (online questionnaire)
- qualitative-quantitative content analyses

Results

Figure 1 - Visualization of the emerging characteristics of a lay conceptualization of grace based on the reported quantitative and qualitative content analysis



Highlights Lay- Definition

- robustness underlying characteristics (see Figure 1)
- significant group differences:
 - believing or older participants describe more extra-ordinary and transcendent elements
 - nonbelievers more about faults and forgiveness
 - believing people report more positive feelings in their definition
 - women more virtuous characteristics

Reference

Schellekens, T., Dillen, A., Dewitte, L., Dezutter, J. (2020). A Lay Definition of Grace: a Quantitative and Qualitative Content Analysis. *International Journal For The Psychology Of Religion*, 1-23.

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Study Experience of Grace

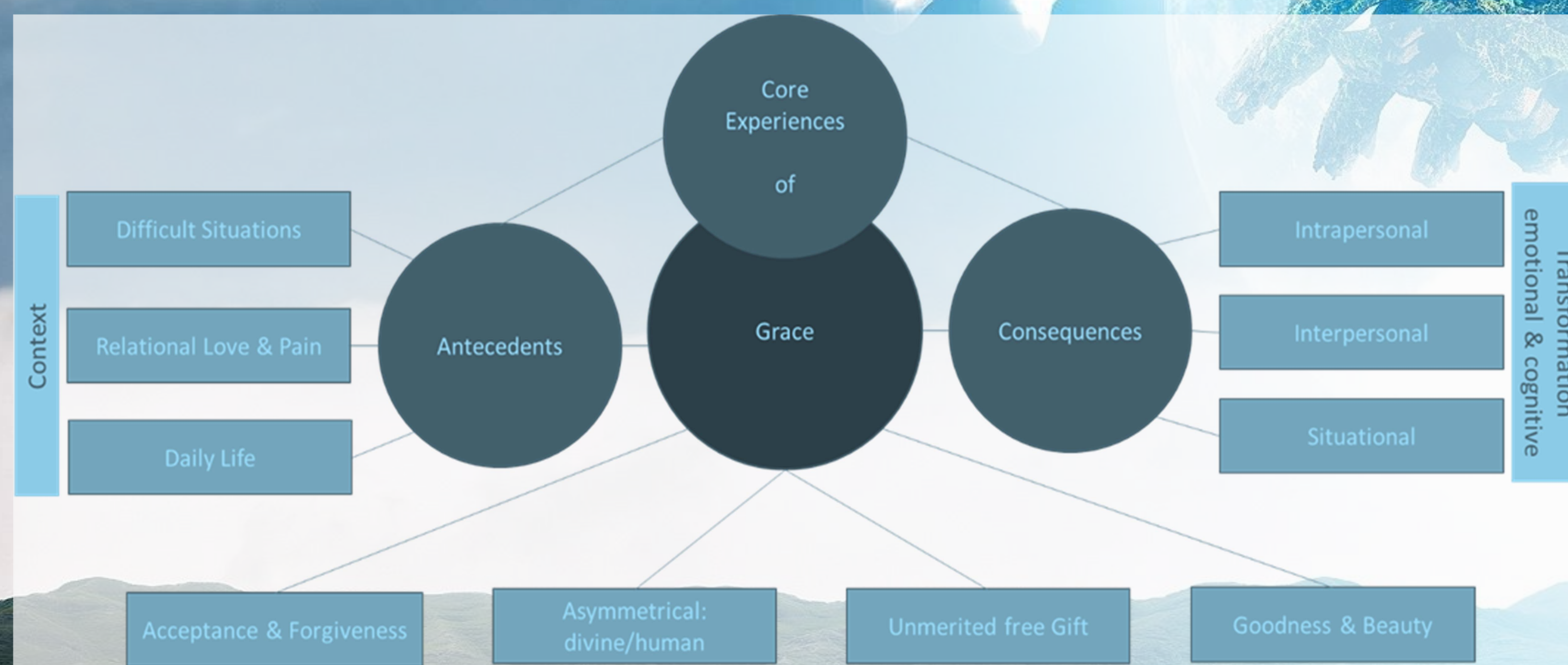
- 456 person-level narratives about experiences with grace
- qualitative thematic network analysis

Results

Figure 2- Visualisation of network of emerging themes based on the qualitative thematic analysis

Highlights Experiences of Grace

- can happen anywhere anytime
- often preceded by difficulties Experience
- unmerited free gift
- goodness and beauty
- divine and human source
- transformation intrapersonal, interpersonal, situational level



Reference

Experiencing Grace: A Thematic Network Analysis of Person-level Narratives. *Open Theology*, 6 (1), 360-373.