



Convictions concerning the nature-nurture determinants of human condition and interpretations of miraculous healings among medical students



Michał Wiechetek (wiechetek@kul.pl)(1), Jakub Pawlikowski(2), Jarosław Sak(2)
(1) John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (Poland); (2) Medical University of Lublin (Poland)
5th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health, May 12-14, 2016, Gdańsk (Poland)

INTRODUCTION

The diverse approaches to miracles originated from the differences in understanding of the causative factors, concepts of nature and the relationship between God and nature. Many interpretations concerning the nature-nurture determinants of human condition were offered in philosophical, psychological, medical and biological publications (Plomin et al., 2001; Tabery J. 2014, Frire et al., 2011) and it is possible to distinguish 3 ways of interpreting these determinants: 1) domination of natural determinants (e.g. biological, hereditary, genes), 2) nurture determinants (e.g. culture, teaching, social interactions) and 3) nature-nurture interactions. Previous studies suggest that convictions concerned human condition are connected with different psychosocial factors such as: religiosity, thinking styles, political orientation, stability of human nature and engagement in teaching processes (Furnham et al., 1985; Żmuda-Trzebiatowska et al., 2008).

AIM OF THE RESEARCH

- Description of interplays between convictions concerning the nature-nurture determinants of human conditions and the interpretation of miraculous healings among medical students.

PARTICIPANTS

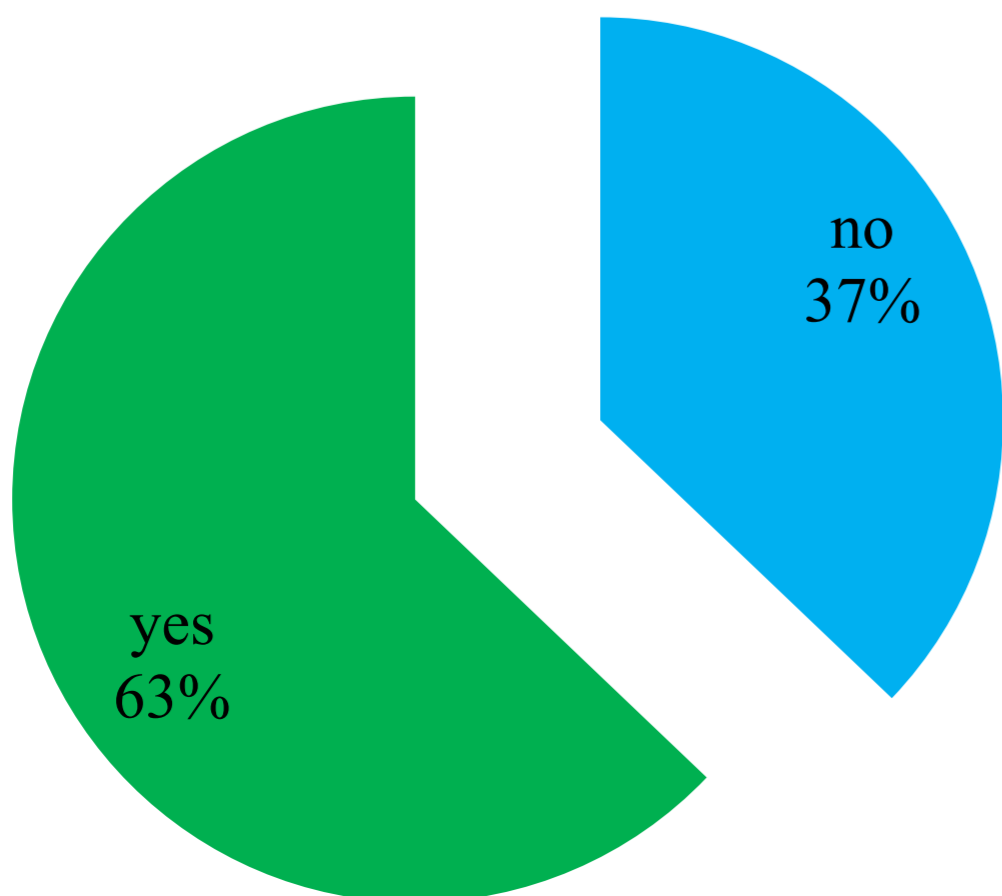
- N= 132 medical students;
- Age: 19 – 25 years (M=20,72; SD=1,12).

METHODS

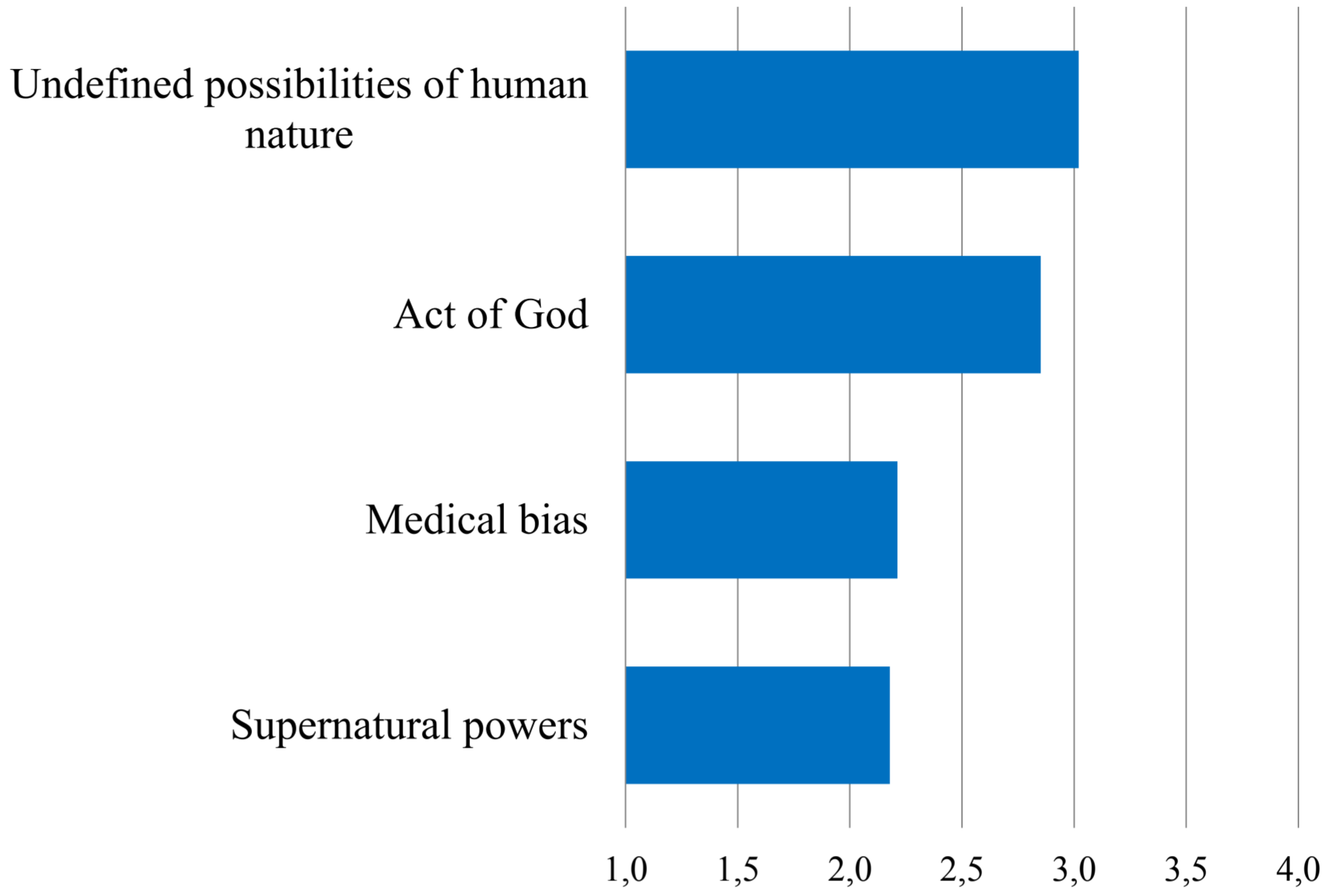
- N-K Questionnaire – concerns perception of human condition determinants: nature, nurture and nature-nurture interactions (Żmuda-Trzebiatowska, 2008);
- Beliefs about Miraculous Healings Scale – assesses four interpretations of miraculous healings: Act of God, Undefined possibilities of human nature, Supernatural powers and Medical bias (Wiechetek & Pawlikowski, 2012).

RESULTS

Believe in miracles among medical students:



Interpretations of miraculous healing among medical students (median score):



Interplay between convictions concerning the nature-nurture determinants of human condition and the interpretation of miraculous healing (Spearman's rank correlation coefficient):

Miraculous healing is the effect of:	Determinants of human condition:		
	Nature	Nurture	Nature x nurture
Undefined possibilities of human nature	-0,121	,193*	,296**
Supernatural powers	,176*	0,093	0,012
Medical bias	-0,03	-0,097	-0,06
Act of God	,200*	0,029	-0,035

* p< .05; ** p< .01

CONCLUSION

- The obtained results reveal that 63% of medical students believed in miracles.
- Majority of them perceived miraculous healings as a result of undefined possibilities of the human nature.
- A positive correlation was observed between convictions emphasizing natural determinants of human conditions and the belief in miracles as the effect of supernatural causes (act of God or supernatural powers).
- Results reveal that the perception of miraculous healings as undefined possibilities of the human organism is connected with convictions emphasizing nurture determinants and nature-nurture determinants interactions of human conditions.

REFERENCES

Frيره C. H., Mann, J., Krützen, M., Connor, R. C., Bejder, L., Sherwin, W. B. (2011) Nature and nurture: A step towards investigating their interactions in the wild. *Commun Integr Biol.* 4(2), 192-3.
Furnham, A., Johnson, C., Rawles, R. (1985).The determinants of beliefs in human nature. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 6, 675–684
Plomin, R., McGuffin, P., McClearn, G. M. i DeFries, J. C. (2001). *Genetyka zachowania*. Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN.
Tabery J (2014) *Beyond versus: the struggle to understand the interaction and nature and nurture*. MIT Press, Cambridge
Wiechetek, M., Pawlikowski, J. (2012). *Beliefs about Miraculous Healings Scale*. Lublin: The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Unpublished manuscript.
Żmuda-Trzebiatowska M. (2008). Kwestionariusz do diagnozy przekonań na temat źródeł natury człowieka. *Psychologia Społeczna* 3, 2(7), 167-179.



Styles of religious thinking, religious anxiety and belief in miraculous healing

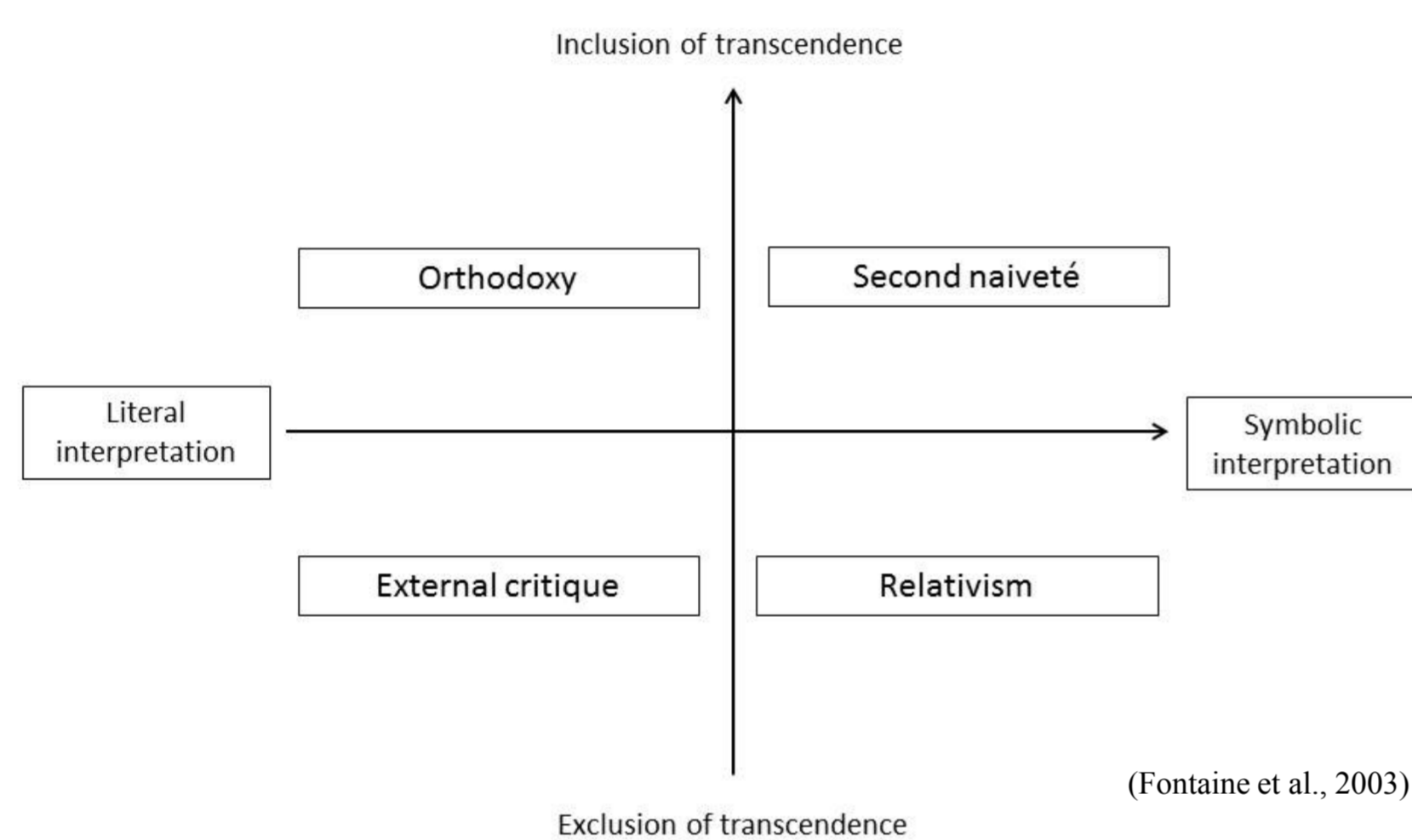


Jakub Pawlikowski (jpawlikowski@wp.pl)(1), Michał Wiechetek (2), Marek Jarosz
(1) Medical University of Lublin (Poland); (2) John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (Poland)
5th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health, May 12-14, 2016, Gdańsk (Poland)

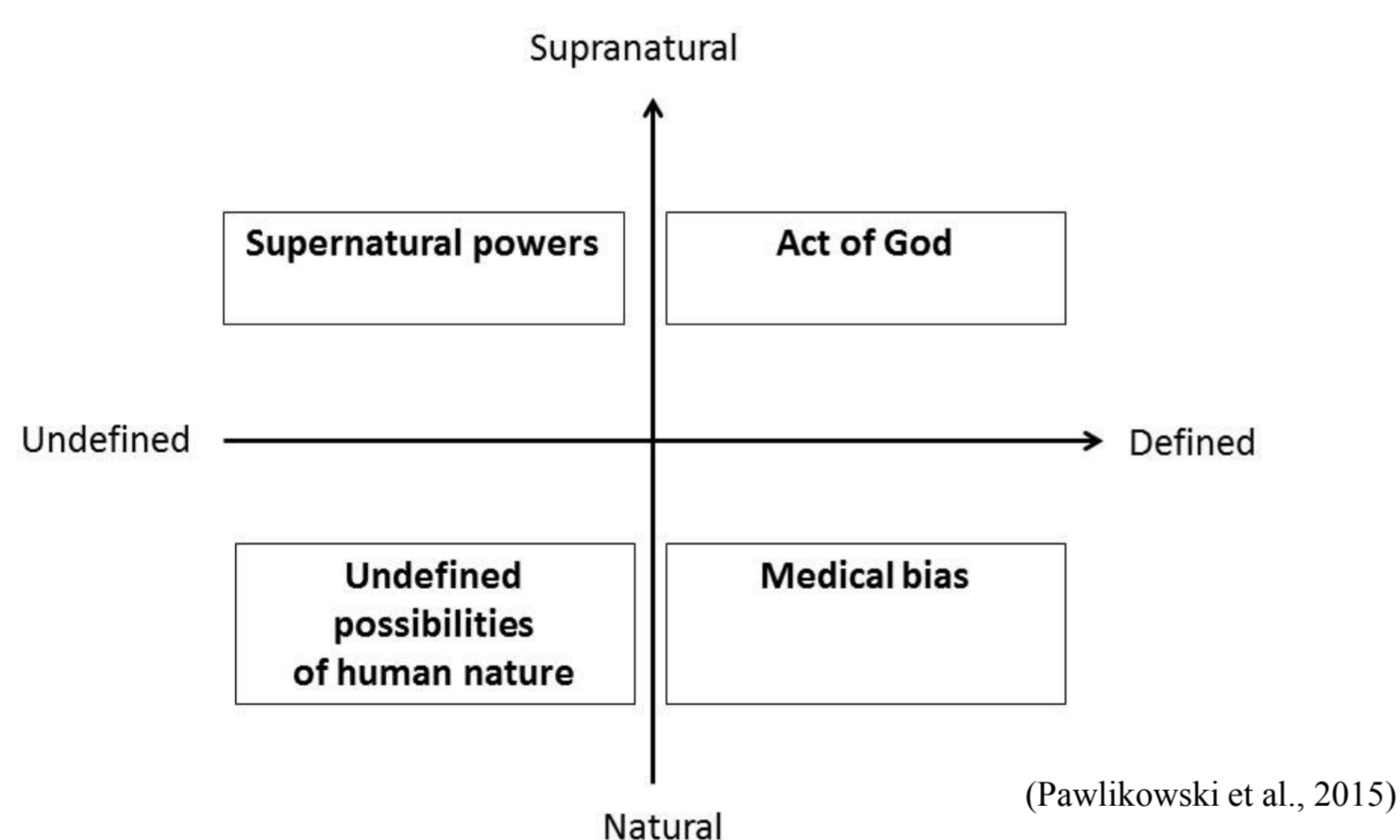
INTRODUCTION:

According to Wulff (1991), approaches to religion can be inserted in an orthogonal bipolar dimension. Vertical dimension specifies to what extent people accept the real existence of God or other transcendent reality. The horizontal dimension indicates whether religious content is interpreted literally or symbolically (Hutsebaut, 2000). Cognitive styles of approach to religion can be influenced by sociocultural conditions such as secularisation/laicization connected with religious anxiety, feeling of God's abandonment or despondency which in turn may lead to the negation of God's existence or action (Spilka et al., 2003).

Scheme 1. Theoretical model of religious thinking styles (post critical beliefs) based on the Wulff's approaches to religion



Scheme 2. Theoretical model of miraculous healings beliefs



AIM OF THE RESEARCH:

- Analysis of the relationship between religious thinking styles, religious anxiety and the interpretation of miraculous healings.

PARTICIPANTS:

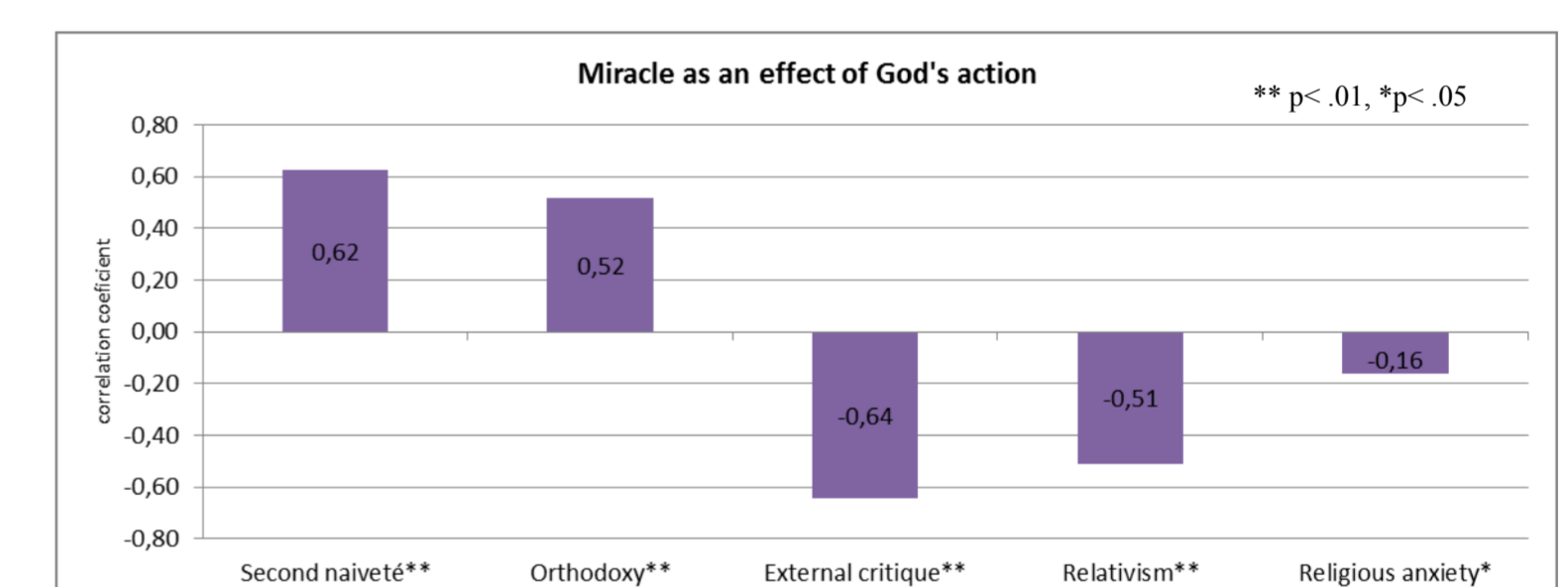
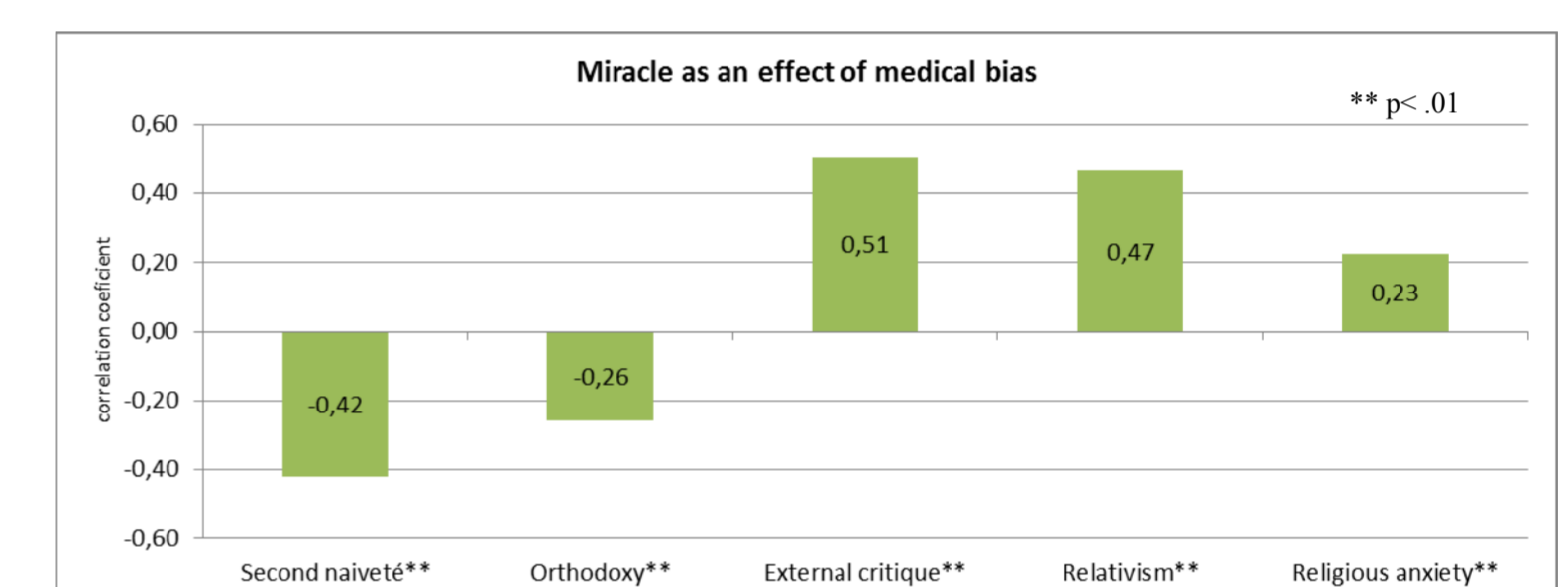
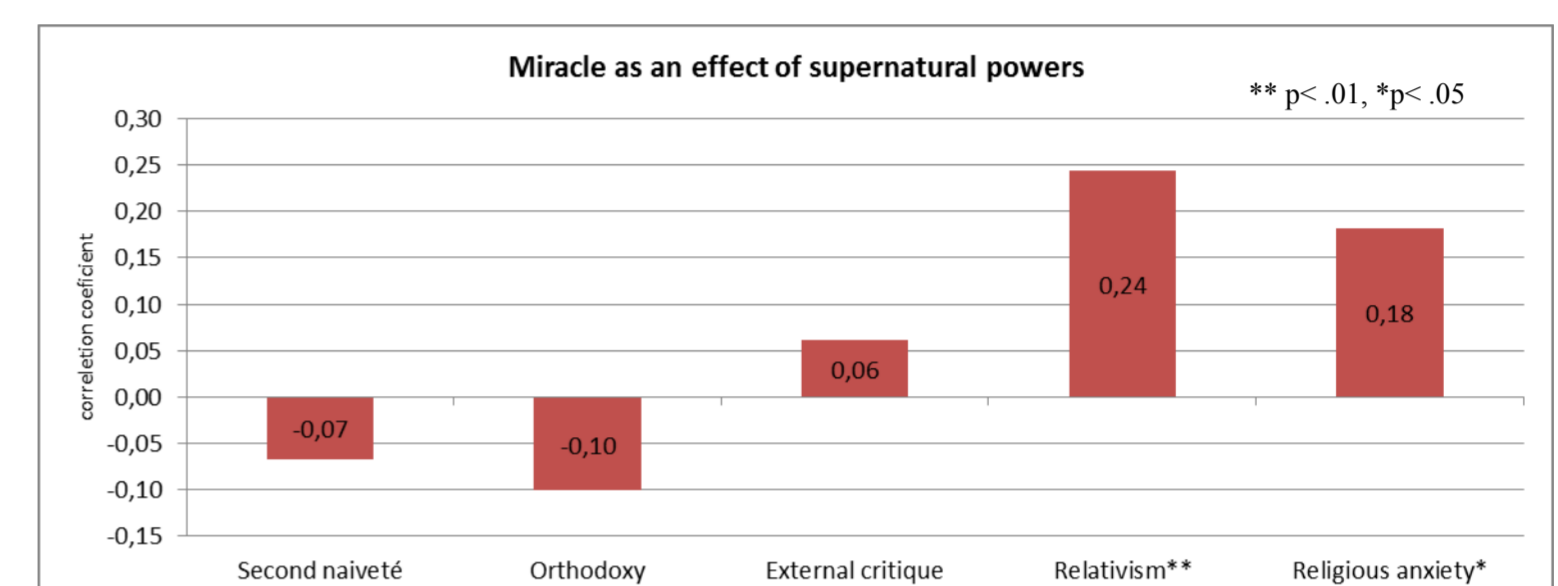
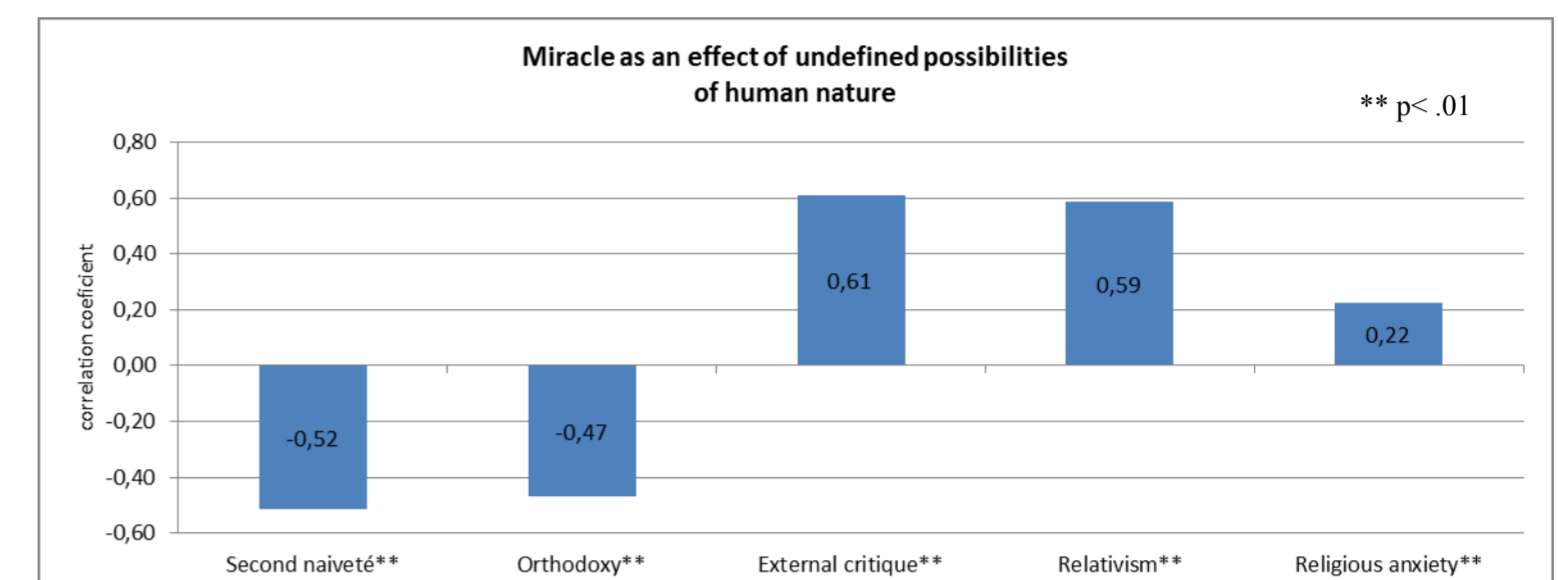
- N= 162 respondents (woman: 72,2%);
- Age: 18 – 26 years (M=21,03; SD=1,60).

METHODS:

- Shortened Post-Critical Belief Scales (Duriez et al., 2005);
- Religious anxiety dimension derived from Multidimensional Quest Orientation Scale (Beck & Jessup, 2004);
- Beliefs about Miraculous Healings Scale – assesses four interpretations of miraculous healings: Act of God, Undefined possibilities of human nature, Supernatural powers and Medical bias (Wiechetek & Pawlikowski, 2012).

RESULTS:

Interplay between religious thinking styles, religious anxiety and belief in miraculous healing (Spearman's rank correlation coefficient):



CONCLUSION:

- Results indicate that the styles of religious thinking and religious anxiety are connected with specific beliefs on the cause of miraculous healings.
- Respondents who accepted the existence of a transcendent reality perceived miraculous healing as a result of God's act, but not as an effect of undefined possibilities of the human nature or medical bias.
- People who rejected a transcendent reality or experienced religious anxiety explained miraculous healing as an effect of undefined possibilities of the human nature, medical bias, and (less often) an action of an indefinite supernatural powers.

REFERENCES:

- Beck, R., Jessup, R., K. (2004) The Multidimensional Nature of Quest Motivation. *Journal of Psychology and Theology*, Vol. 32, No 4, 283-294.
- Duriez, B., Soenens, B. & Hutsebaut, D. (2005). Introducing the shortened Post-Critical Belief Scale. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 38, 851-857.
- Fontaine, J. R. J., Duriez, B., Luyten, P., & Hutsebaut, H. (2003). The internal structure of the Post-Critical Belief Scale. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 35, 501-518.
- Hutsebaut, D. (2000). Post-Critical Belief Scale. Exploration of a possible developmental process. *Journal of Empirical Theology*, 13(2), 19-28.
- Pawlikowski, J., Wiechetek, M., Sak, J., Jarosz, M.(2015). Beliefs in Miraculous Healings, Religiosity and Meaning in Life. *Religions*, 6, 1113-1124.
- Spilka, B., Hood, R.W., Hunsberger, B., Gorsuch, R. (2003). *The Psychology of Religion*. New York: The Guilford Press.
- Wiechetek, M., Pawlikowski, J. (2012). *Beliefs about Miraculous Healings Scale*. Lublin: The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Unpublished manuscript.
- Wulff, D. M. (1991). *Psychology of religion: Classic and contemporary views*. New York: Wiley.