Reviewer's report

Title: Social Network Properties and Self-Rated Health in Later Life Comparisons from the Korean Social Life, Health, and Aging Project and the National Social Life, Health and Aging Project

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Reviewer: Tianyuan Li

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript reported an interesting study that looked into a complete social network of all older adults in a rural Korean town. Using social network analysis, the ego-centric network structure of Korean older adults was explored and compared with that of American older adults. Some interesting differences were identified (e.g., gender differences in network characteristics). The complete network characteristics were also explored. The data collected for the study are valuable and have the potential to make an important contribution to the literature. However, several aspects of the manuscript can still be improved.

1. The current presentation of the theoretical framework and background of the study is relatively weak. The authors may explain more why it is important to make a replication of the NSHAP study in Korean, what are the variables of interest, why these variables matter, what are the research questions and hypotheses, etc.

2. Although Township K only has a small population, it is still amazing that ALL the older adults in that town were recruited for the study. More information about the recruitment procedure is needed.

3. line 108-111, p5: The authors mentioned that they drew blood samples from the participants. It's not clear what kind of biomarkers were of interest and no results reported were related to the biomarkers, which is very confusing.

4. In general, the manuscript contains many jargons specific to social network analysis (e.g., ego, alter, betweenness centrality, etc.). To suit a more general readership, the authors can reduce the use of jargons or explain more clearly about the meaning and practical implication of these terms or indices.

5. line 188, p10: The sentence "It is the product of the minimum..." is not clear.

6. line 195-200, p10: Five types of brokerage roles were mentioned. What does each role mean, and what are the practical implications?

7. More information regarding the analytical procedure is needed, such as what software was used, what analytical methods were conducted to obtain different sets of results, etc.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.