Reviewer's report

**Title:** Do Nonphysical Punishments Also Increase Antisocial Behavior? A Replication of the Strongest Causal Evidence Against Customary Spanking

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 13 November 2009

**Reviewer:** Carl J Lombard

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors has sufficiently addressed the manuscript to accommodate the comments of Dr Jolley in my view. This also pertains to the comments of Dr Pafitis especially the more detailed description of the construction of the sub-sample used for their replication and secondary analysis, The discussion contains appropriate statements around the limitations of the study.

The balance between the two main objectives of the study is much better in the revised version. The paper reads well and in my view is suitable for publication.

In the replication and other analysis the results presented are of a marginal nature for the four different disciplinary tactics used, That is each is analysed separately and the coefficients form the models are compared. In the reporting of the four tactics used in one week there are additional information contained in the multiplicity of tactics used. The nature of this multiplicity is restricted to presence and intensity and does seem to carry any information on order of use. From Figure 1 it seems that the most important effect is that of a tactic being used or not. Information on the extent of the multiplicity could also partially explain the agreement in results obtained for the marginal models. A comment on this in the discussion could be warranted since I do not think you/ they would like to add this to the paper.

Two editorial comments

P17 line 4 from the bottom – the reference should be to figure 1 and not the figure 2 I think.

Table 4: the superscript small a is missing in the body of the table (Zero-order r (a)) since it is used in a footnote of the table.