Reviewer’s report

Title: Bicultural identity among economical migrants from three south European countries living in Switzerland: Adaptation and validation of a new psychometric instrument

Version: 1 Date: 2 March 2007

Reviewer: Javier I I Escobar

Reviewer’s report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Response to attached comments to the authors

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

This is a well written paper reporting on the development and validation of a French language acculturation scale for use with immigrant populations in Switzerland.

I have the following comments:

1-It is important to get some information on the immigrant groups under scrutiny (Portuguese, Spanish, Italians). What are the main issues with them? Are there issues of discrimination, psychopathology, problems with accessing services for any of these groups in Switzerland?

2- Since they are using models of acculturation developed in the USA particularly for Mexican immigrants, authors should address issues such as differences in the immigration experience in the USA and Europe. For example, in the USA, issues such as illegal immigration and profound cultural differences complicate the acculturation process. The authors should add a few paragraphs addressing these issues.

3- What is the main goal for developing this instrument? -- Help with services and treatment? -- Do epidemiological studies? --

4- The authors should be warned, that in general, in the USA, acculturation scales predict little over and above what is predicted by primary language and country of birth. Thus, extensive inventories like this one may add little despite the added time and costs.