Reviewer's report

**Title:** Child murder and psychopathy - A nationwide register-based case-control study of filicide offenders 1995-2004

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 4 February 2009

**Reviewer:** Dominique Bourget

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an interesting article which brings novel elements to the studies on filicide. It is well written and does not require any major change. While the authors found no significant difference in relation to the presence of mental illness between the filicide offenders and other homicide offenders, they found that they had attempted suicide at the scene more often. This is an area that could be expanded more. The authors suggested that it could be the result of acute distress. Do the records say anything about the suicidality of the perpetrators, prior to the filicide i.e. previous suicide attempts, ruminations, etc. Further efforts to reconcile the finding that filicide offenders did not seem more mentally disordered yet committed suicide more often would improve the strength of this article, which is otherwise excellent.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.