Reviewer's report

**Title:** How do psychosocial determinants in migrant women in the Netherlands differ from these among their counterparts in their country of origin? A cross-sectional study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 23 October 2010

**Reviewer:** Melissa L Stigler

**Reviewer's report:**

Thank you for the opportunity to review your good manuscript. I enjoyed it!

My comments, below, are based on the structure the journal provided for review.

1. **Is the question posed by the authors well defined?**
   Yes. It is.

2. **Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
   Yes. They are. This includes their study design and sampling methodology, as well as their description of measures. In the analysis section, it would be helpful to clarify that only a sub-sample of participants were used in this study - namely, the smokers. At present, that is not explicit in the text (but is noted, given the sample sizes, in the Tables). This is a "minor essential revision."

3. **Are the data sound?**
   Yes. They are. They were appropriately gathered across two contexts at almost the same point in time. Thus, the comparison being made is a reasonable one.

4. **Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?**
   I'm unsure what the standards for data deposition are in this context (Netherlands). The authors are reporting their data and results appropriately in this manuscript. A few comments related to the Results and Tables include,

   a) **Table 1a.** Should the significance be attached to Creole, not Hindustani? This is what appears to be indicated in the text in Results, Characteristics? This is a "minor essential revision."

   b) **Results, smoking related beliefs, first paragraph.** Table 2 suggests that the partners of the Surinamese women in the Netherlands accepted their smoking more than the partners of the women in Surinam itself (subjective norm, partner). This is not noted in the text. This is a "minor essential revision." Consider carrying this through the Discussion, too.

   c) **Results, smoking related beliefs, second paragraph.** Table 3 also suggests
that the subjective norm of partner discriminates these two samples, too. The OR there is 6.49 and is statistically significant (95% CI: 2.71 - 15.56). This is also not noted in the text. This is a "minor essential revision." Consider carrying this through the Discussion, too.

d) What does a "POSITIVE cognitive attitude" (Table 3; and Results, smoking related beliefs, second paragraph) mean? The data in Table 2 suggest that the Dutch sample was less likely to believe there were negative health consequences of smoking. It would be helpful to clarify this point, in a footnote - or consider changing how the scale is named? It is a bit confusing as is. This is a "minor essential revision."

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?

Yes. They are adequately supported by the data. Consider pulling the results specific to their partners through the discussion, too. The proximal social environment of the Dutch Surinamese (partner, friends) appears to confer more risk than the proximal social environment of the non-migrant Surinamese. This is a "minor essential revision."

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?

Yes. This is nicely done in the Discussion section and highlights the most major of limitations.

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?

Yes. These links are appropriately made.

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?

Yes, the title and abstract accurately convey what you have found.

9. Is the writing acceptable?

Yes, the writing is acceptable.

**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:**

I declare I have no competing interests.