Reviewer's report

**Title:** Exposure to the Chinese famine in early life and the risk of anaemia in adulthood

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 8 May 2013

**Reviewer:** Gerd Holmboe-Ottesen

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an interesting paper suggesting a relation between early life exposure to famine and anaemia. The research question is well defined and the methods applied appropriate.

In my view, only minor revisions are necessary:

1. In Methods section it is mentioned that dietary assessment were done on one third of the households. However there is no mention of the methods used in estimating food/iron intake. This should be clarified.

2. In results: First para, second to last sentence. Percentages (48.2 vs 33.3) in regard to coexistence of overweight and anaemia are different from the results given in Table 1 (below subtitle on ‘comorbidity’). Please give more details as how these figures have appeared and can be distinguished from the ones in the table.

3. In Discussion, Page 8, 2nd para, last two sentences: Please give more information on how stress may affect anaemia.

4. Table 1: Units should given to all figures that are means in the table.

**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:**

no competing Interest

no financial ties