Reviewer's report

Title: Having mentors moderates the impact of worries and video gaming on the development of depressive symptoms: A moderated mediation analysis

Version: 3
Date: 8 April 2014

Reviewer: Sander Matthijs Eggers

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions
1. The title has been updated but does not seem to accurately reflect the findings. More specifically, it is not only ‘the amount of mentors’ that moderates the effects, but also ‘the amount of social networks’. Is there a reason for only referring to the effect of the mentors in the title?

In addition, it is not fully accurate to state that they have an effect on ‘the development’ of depressive symptoms, since this would imply longitudinal analysis of the development of symptoms.

2. In the results section, 3rd paragraph, mediation analyses are supposedly reported. However, the results in this section refer to the models in Table 2 and 3. These models include interaction terms, which make the interpretation of the supposed main effects more complex. I would like to see the results of a regular mediation analysis (with PROCESS for example) before any moderating effects are presented/included.

Minor essential revisions
1. Unfortunately, the manuscript still contains multiple grammatical errors. A few are listed below:
   - Introduction: Page 4: “If this is the case, it is likely that problematic video game plays a mediator role ...”. Please change this into “problematic video gaming plays a mediating role ...”.
   - Last sentence introduction: “This study is the first to test a moderated mediation model by ...”. Please change this into “This study is the first to investigate the interaction of risks and protective factors in depression in university students by applying a moderated mediation model”. Otherwise it would almost sound as if the authors are the first to publish a moderated mediation model.
   - Discussion: 3rd paragraph: “... these findings indicate that worry may confer a vulnerability to depression on university students through avoidant coping strategies such as an excessive video game playing”. Please remove “an”.
   - Discussion: 3rd paragraph: “Wood[31] found that the core impetus for an excessive video game playing .....”. Please remove “an”.
   - Discussion: 3rd paragraph: “... a higher number of worries may spend a longer time playing video game in an attempt ...”. Please correct into ‘video games’.
- Discussion: 5th paragraph: “before students use an avoidant strategy, such as video game playing as a means to avoid their worries”. Please correct into “such as video game playing as a means to avoid their worries”

- Limitations: 1st paragraph: “Future study is warranted to clarifying...”. Please correct into “warranted to clarify...”.

- Etcetera...

2. Since all beta’s (standardized) in Table 2 and Table 3 were corrected into capital B’s (raw coefficients), I would like to point out that the end of the results section, the authors still mention ‘beta’. I am unsure whether this is intentional, but please make sure that they are correctly called B’s or beta’s and please keep the notation consistent throughout the manuscript unless there is a specific reason for deviating.

3. In the limitation section the authors incorporate my previous feedback as follows: “Also, the measures used in the current study only assessed the quantity of worries/networks/mentors/sleep. A useful recommendation for future research would be to investigate whether including quality/severity of the worries/networks ....”. Please reformulate these sentences in order to suit a scientific writing style. More specifically, I think the use of ‘/’ and the abbreviation of certain factors into one word does not suit the writing style and formulation of the rest of the manuscript.

4. In Table 3, the conditional indirect effects are reported for levels of the moderator (number of campus social networks). However, these levels seem to have been round off (1,1,2,3,3). Please adjust these numbers so they can be distinguished from each other, either by mentioning decimals, or by rerunning the analysis with integer values for the levels of the moderator (0,1,2,3,4).

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests