Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Mental health (GHQ12; CES-D) and the value attributed to work among inmates of a semi-open prison and the long-term unemployed in Luxembourg

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Monday, March 24, 2008

Dear Dr Bucceri,

Re: “Mental health (GHQ12; CES-D) and attitudes towards the value attributed to work among inmates of a semi-open prison and the long-term unemployed in Luxembourg.” Baumann M, Meyers R, Le Bihan E, Houssemand C. (MS: 2034862742168012)

Please find enclosed the second revised version of the above manuscript and our responses to the reviewer.

Looking forward to hearing from the Editorial Board.

Sincerely yours

Prof. Michèle Baumann
1. The section on power is confusing to me. For what test is the power being estimated?

This is stated in the paragraph headed 'Statistical analysis': "We also performed power calculations for 5- or 10-point differences on a 0 to 100 scale for the Student’s t-tests, and for small and medium effect sizes (respectively 0.1 and 0.3) for the Chi-square tests". This information has also been added to the footnotes on Tables 1 and 2.

2. In moderated regression, the change in R-squared, and the significance of the change in R-squared should be reported. I also don't understand where the moderated parameters are reported.

The moderated parameters are reported in Table 4

3. In table 3, the reference categories for the regression are chosen curiously. For example, I would have chosen no work experience as the reference category, and the lowest age as the reference category. (Considers self to be ill is coded in an appropriate direction).

This has been corrected.

4. The paragraph that starts "The effect produced by the value given" is confusing because of the lack of information. For any effect, the parameter, the p-value and the confidence intervals should be given. For every difference between two parameters, the difference, the p-value and the confidence intervals should be given. In this paragraph there is a mixture of p-values and parameter estimates, but both are rarely given. (I would consider putting them in a table).

The confidence intervals for the parameters have been added to Table 3. We have also added another Table covering the differences between the parameters, in which the differences, the confidence intervals and the p-values are reported in Table 5.

5. To what does the p-value refer in the sentence "GHQ12 scores in prisoners (mean (M) 47.8 standard deviation (S.D) 10.3; p<0.001)"

The comparisons of our results with those in the literature are addressed in the paragraph in which we specify the test used: "We performed Student’s t tests to compare the above with the literature. All differences were highly significant."[p < 0.001].

6. I still don't see how the conclusions follow from the study. Didn't we know those conclusions before carrying out the study? What do we conclude from the results of the study? (In the abstract, the results section is more like a conclusion, and gives little in the way of results.)

See substantial changes to the manuscript.

Needs some language corrections before being published

OK

Competing interests
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.