Reviewer's report

Title: Public Health: Disparities between policy, practice and research

Version: 1 Date: 26 September 2010

Reviewer: Evelyne EL de Leeuw

Reviewer's report:

I like the idea of 'niches' and would certainly encourage you to continue to theorise this a little bit more. In science, the niche is an ecological term, and several species can populate the same, different or overlapping niches. You could use this metaphor to further develop your argument. I would see this as a major revision requirement.

The other compulsory revision would entail a slightly more systematic review of the circular/feedback stages heuristic (cf. Sabatier) you use. This is a fairly old-fashioned and orthodox approach to policy and practice planning, and in recent (post-modern) theoretical and empirical work this notion is challenged. Your application, though, is convincing. You would have to argue this better.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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, although I know the authors.'