Reviewer's report

Title: Barriers and recruitment strategies for precarious status migrants in Montreal, Canada

Version: 0 Date: 16 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Pavlina Andreeva-Gateva

Reviewer's report:

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This is a paper aiming at describing Barriers and recruitment strategies for precarious status migrants in Montreal, Canada. A mixed sequential design was used to combine qualitative data gathered from members of the research team at a deliberative workshop (n = 16) and in individual interviews (n = 15) with qualitative and quantitative data collected using the conceptual mapping method (n = 10).

Authors concluded that sharing the experiences and lessons learned by the research team in this study in Montreal provides a useful working tool for future research projects.

Comments.

1. The reason why not all 16 participant did not participated in the conceptual mapping method (n=10) needs to be explained. How exactly those 10 participants were chosen?

2. In the introduction authors enumerated all items which were further evaluated during the study. In the discussion authors have to clearly state what were the new ideas they subtracted from they study. The recommendations in the Table 3 are applicable to all populations under recruitment, not just for precarious status migrants.

3. p. 7 - 447+387 subjects were recruited, but for which purpose? And here may be it would be better to indicate quantitatively the methods of the recruitment. For me the sentence "the initial objective was achieved" is not clear. Which objective was achieved?

4. The background of the interviewers needs to be presented in brief. Their experience as a recruiters? On p.12 they are described as "research assistants". Are those the same subjects as on table 1? Please, unify.

5. Please, correct the numbering of the challenges (pp. 14-15)
6. p. 23 - "sharing of common migration experiences was a key factor for recruitment in the present study." and p. 24 - "very diverse levels of education". Those are characteristics of the recruited populations and it will be better to place them on p. 7.

7. Additional file 1 - please, complete with the other communities, as per p.6 (the footer). There is missing Russian speaking etc. Please, name those communities uniformly through the manuscript.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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