Reviewer’s report

Title: New Partnerships among Single Older Adults: A Q Methodology Study

Version: 0 Date: 12 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

No - there are minor issues

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Could an appropriately REVISED version of this work represent a technically sound contribution?

Probably - with minor revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: The study has followed Q methodology method and is a clear description of what has been carried out. The authors have related the introduction and the
method well. The specific difficulty is when there are comparisons or correlations made between the factor a person sorts to and one of their characteristics eg, age; being widowed living close to a partner. It is the statements that are being factor analysed not the participants. This does not negate much of the results or conclusions because the results are very valid anyway; to say that the views on the topic whilst different have got patterns; that if known can help professionals discuss with older people what their beliefs relating to wanting a partner and the benefit to them might be.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

As discussed above remove the aspects that relate to the qualities the participants might have because these links cannot be made and this is not the intention of Q it looks for subjectivity and explores this not correlations.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

I think this is an excellent paper and a lot of hard work has been put into it. Congratulations. For very minor adjustments this paper will inform the subject it explores. In the West loneliness is seen as a very important aspect of people's health and having insight into the relevance of what matters to older people in terms of having a new partner is valuable.

Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.

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

Yes

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

Yes

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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