Reviewer’s report

Title: A feminist phenomenology on the emotional labor and morality of live-in migrant care workers caring for older people in the community

Version: 0 Date: 18 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Philip Lin Kiat Yap

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript which addresses an increasingly important issue as more migrant care workers (MCWs) are engaged to care for frail seniors in ageing societies. However, a few issues should be addressed before the manuscript can be suitable for publication and they are as follows:

1) What is the sampling frame and response rate? Was there any difference between the profiles of the respondents compared to non-respondents?

2) I note there were only Filipinos and Indonesians among the respondents, is this representative of the profile of MCWs in Hong Kong? I understand some MCWs hail from Myanmar and even mainland China.

3) It would be appropriate to provide more representative interview questions that were used to elicit responses that met the study aim to investigate emotional labour and the morality enacted through it.

4) With regards to subtheme 1 (caregiving regulated by emotions and its expectations as morally demanded by an oppressive work relationship), would it not be more appropriate to say it is socioculturally rather than morally demanded by an oppressive work relationship?

5) In the Discussion and Conclusion, there is mention of the need for acculturation of MCWs and the need to develop culturally appropriate interventions for them. However, the findings do not quite support this. The main theme and subthemes seem have arisen more as a result of the asymmetry of power between employers and MCWs rather than MCWs having to adapt to working in a foreign culture. Would not these findings have been similar if the care workers were local Chinese?

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.

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.
I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal