Author’s response to reviews

Title: Entrapment as a Mediator of Suicide Crises

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Response to reviewers

Thank you both for your very thoughtful & helpful reviews. Our responses follow each specific point, in italics and corresponding changes in the text are highlighted. See the supplementary changes highlighted document.

Thomas Forkmann (Reviewer 1) writes: Thank you for submitting this thoroughly revised version of the original manuscript. All of my concerns were answered satisfactorily.

Thank you, Dr. Forkmann.

Christopher R. Hagan (Reviewer 2) writes: Thank you for this revised manuscript, I believe that these revisions have improved the manuscript and that it will be a valuable contribution to the literature. I do have a few remaining concerns that I would like to see addressed prior to publication.

Thank you, Dr. Hagan. Please find our responses to your very helpful comments below.

1) Regarding my Primary Concern #1 (clarity of the explanation of SCS): I appreciate the changes that were made, but I am still unclear about the proposed relationship of these
factors to one another in this syndrome. Are these components just a list of risk factors for suicide, are they proposed mediators of the transition from suicidal ideation to suicidal behavior? Are they hypothesized to interact or have additive effects? Is SCS designed to be a potential diagnosis like ASAD described in citation #5? I am not asking for all of the questions to be individually answered, but just that information along these lines is provided to help readers understand the hypotheses and claims of the existence of SCS.

Thank you for helping us put a finer point on this issue. Our previous work has demonstrated the predictive value of the SCI, which assesses five constructs included as proposed diagnostic criteria for the SCS: entrapment, ruminative flooding, panic-dissociation, fear of dying, and emotional pain. The SCS is conceptualized as a clinical syndrome that activates latent SI and motivates the transition from SI to SA. In the context of the current study severity of SI serves as a proxy for nearness to SA. In this study, we try to understand the relationships of those five constructs with STB: whether each feature of the syndrome contributes in parallel to STB or whether other symptoms drive entrapment which then serves as the central driver of STB. We now clarify this in the Introduction. See p. 3, lines 14-16 & p. 5, lines 19-21.

2) Regarding your response to my comment 5b - I appreciate that my question goes beyond the limited scope of your article, but I believe that this is still an important topic to be included in the discussion. Please include a brief statement in your discussion to the effect of your comment that more research needs to be conducted to determine if SCS is more predictive of STB than the simple severity of entrapment. I think a good location would be p 14 ln 15, but anywhere appropriate is fine with me.

Your point is well taken, and we now note this accordingly. See page 14 line 15-17.

3) Throughout the text, when an exact p value is available, please include it rather than stating, p<.05 or p<.01. I noticed this on p9, ln 13 (p=.001); p10, lns 12, 13, 17, 18. I included all examples that I noticed, but the entire manuscript should be reviewed with this in mind.

Thank you for your comment. We have corrected this error. See page 9, lines 13, 23, page 10, lines 12,13, 17 and 18.

4) Throughout the text and tables, please include a consistent number of decimal positions for the same types of values. (e.g., standardized regression coefficients = 0.08 & 0.117 on the bottom half of p9; table 3b - indirect effect upper limit; table 5b - total effect upper limit). I included all examples that I noticed, but the entire manuscript should be reviewed with this in mind.

Thank you for your comment. We have corrected this error. See page 9, lines 14 and 19, page 10, lines 4, and 13, tables 3b and 5b.
5) Citation 15 has been updated in Edition 2 of the International Handbook of Suicide Prevention

Thank you for your comment. We have updated citation 15.

6) Table 2 - the correlation values only need to be presented once, either above or below the diagonal line.

Thank you for your comment. We have changed the table accordingly. See table 2.