Reviewer’s report

Title: The pitfall of empathic concern with chronic fatigue after a disaster in young adults

Version: 0 Date: 09 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Daniel Curtis McFarland

Reviewer's report:

Primary Concern:

I'm afraid that I don't follow the conclusion.

the authors state: We hypothesized that the traits and dynamics of EC and "relating to others" may differently affect chronic fatigue after disaster and that decreasing EC may be salutogenic through active suppression for chronic fatigue.

However, Table 2 shows that EC and chronic fatigue are inversely related at 1 year. The authors states that these results were in accordance with their hypothesis. I don't follow however since if they are inversely related greater EC would be associated with less fatigue and vice versa.

Minor Concerns:

1. Post Traumatic Growth was not mentioned in the introduction and yet PTG and depression were thrown in the methods.

2. Since the authors clearly have directional hypothesis in mind, i think it seems too vague when the state in their hypothesis that EC and 'relating to others' may differently affect.. They need to include how chronic fatigue would be effected?

3. The distinction between how they measured the 'trait' and dynamics' of EC was not clear to me (it made sense after they explained it in the Discussion however.

4. Since it's a relatively small n, it would be helpful to have some visual representation of the association (scatterplot etc..) just to be sure that it's not a few outliers that are causing the correlation.
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.

No

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.

I recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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