Reviewer's report

Title: Interactional justice at work is related to sickness absence: a study using repeated measures in the Swedish working population

Version: 0 Date: 17 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Andrea Steege

Reviewer's report:

This was a very nice paper, I found the analysis interesting and the topic compelling. I have only a few critiques. My main comment is that the text and tables implied that your variables were dichotomous even though they ranged from 0-3/0-4. This should be corrected throughout the results, discussion, and tables.

My other comments with page (P) and Line numbers:

P4 line 12 Use -SA- to abbreviate sickness absence(?) without previously defining your abbreviation, not sure it is used again.

Aims are buried in text.

P5 Study population: This is very unclear, a diagram would help.

Is it true that some participants were cross-sectional (only in one wave), not longitudinal? How does that work with the time variable?

P6 line 29 1st sentence in paragraph seems to be missing words?

P6 Job Insecurity—not clear. Higher score = more insecurity?

P6 line 51 'for up to one week' is not precise, 1-7 days

P6 line 52 don't really need to state the categories if you are going to say 2 occasions or more. Also think 'responded' is a better word than 'stated' since it is a postal questionnaire.
P7 Covariates/Confounders? Is there evidence that marital status is related to sickness absence in the base population? Is there information about how marital status is related to perception of
Informational / Interpersonal justice at work? There is not a discussion of why covariates are included. Many researchers include variables as confounders without thinking about why they are doing it because others did it in the past.

P8 Is maternity/paternity leave considered sickness absence?

P8-12 & tables Your 'Job insecurity' is not a binary variable (range 0-4), so need to say higher job insecurity.

Likewise, you present results in table and text of 'low informational/interpersonal justice' but your variable is 'Informational/Interpersonal Justice' with a range of 0-3, not a binary variable. Need to say lower justice or less perceived justice since it is a self-administered questionnaire.

P15 ref 17 'approac' should be 'approach'

P15 ref 23 'New Jersey' should be 'New Jersey'

P11 Does 'low job insecurity' mean 'job security'? typo?

P11 'did report no job insecurity at all' -double negative is confusing, rephrase

P11 line 21-25 this sentence seems to come out of nowhere

P11 line 41-42, 50-52 p12 line 10-12, 50 missing some words, awkward, grammar

P17 Table 1 Category should be 'Frequency of Sickness Absence' consider changing 'times' to 'periods' '<2 periods during the past 12 months' / '2 or more periods during the past 12 months' or use occasions as you did in your methods—but think periods is a better term. Please list covariates that are included in table instead of just saying 'covariates'.

You use sex and gender interchangeably, which do you mean?

Would like to see demographics at each of the time intervals.
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.

Yes

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

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