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: 12 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Julia Brütting

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for this interesting and informative approach of investigating the relationship between sickness absence and perceived unfairness.

The results of this study are based on a large, nearly representative sample. Methods and the technical procedure for the statistical analysis are described comprehensibly, including sensitivity analysis.

That makes the results comprehensible and important for everyday working practice.

Nevertheless, there are some aspects that need essential revision:

1) Abstract:

Please place the abbreviation 'GEE' in braces in the method section when you use the term in full length for the first time. Otherwise, one does not know what 'GEE' stands for.

2) Background:

Please explain what is meant by the abbreviation -SA- (page 4, line 12)

3) Main measurements:

Please give a short wording explanation what Cronbach’s alpha numbers indicate, e.g.

'Cronbach's alpha ... varied between 0.89 and 0.90, indicating...' (page 6, lines 20-21 and 35).
4) Subsection Sickness absence:

What is the cut-off (31 days) for long-term sickness absence based on? Is there a definition by Swedish law or is it based on a statistical calculation? A short explanation on this would be desirable (page 6, lines 46-50).

5) Subsection Covariates:

It is not necessary to report how you have coded variables for the statistical analysis to the reader. It is sufficient if you indicate that they have been dichotomized.

6) Discussion:

Could you please provide the heading 'strengths and limitations' over the respective section?

7) Discussion:

You state that actions to improve job security and justice at work might be a well suited measure to decrease sickness absence rates. Could you please name measures or suggest possible approaches (including references) as examples?

8) Page 12, line 50: The word 'out' is double.

9) Tables in general: It would be nice if you could highlight the significant results, so one can see them at the first glance.
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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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