Reviewer’s report

Title: #Deathbedlive: the end-of-life trajectory, reflected in a cancer patient's tweets

Version: 0 Date: 26 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Mark Taubert

Reviewer’s report:

Dear authors,

I read this article with interest. I knew Kate and we worked on a few projects together, and I have since met her husband Chris and was privileged to do a talk in the same symposium as him. I think this is quite a bold paper. I have submitted this kind of thing in the past and received puzzled rejections. Of course, you already note in your Limitations section that in traditional research terms with high n= numbers, this stands out and is unusual in its approach and methodology. But then again, there is a some very rich dialogue held within Kate's Tweets, that will help us understand and learn new angles. I think it is time that we incorporate this into our mixed methodology approaches. I have very little to add to your paper. Perhaps, given that I suspect you will have a very high readership for this, there is scope for novices to the approach you used to learn more about which social media analytics tools are out there (this could be a very short segment, but could be of value). Also, do chat to the Editor-On-Chief about making this article open-access, because nothing gets Twitter more annoyed than prohibitive paywalls.

Kate was also one for honest language. She did not like the violence and battle metaphors in cancer, and did not want to be remembered as a 'loser' in her 'fight' against cancer, which I felt was one of the big key messages.

I am also very glad that you sought permission from Chris Pointon for this to go ahead, because I would have asked you to seek it out had you not done so.

Kate was a real pioneer, and she would have liked this approach and this foray into research with social media and Twitter. It will have its critics, and I would not be surprise if Reviewer No 2 says 'Reject', but I strongly support this getting published. Hope to connect sometime in the future. Best Wishes, Mark @DrMarkTaubert

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.

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