Reviewer's report

Title: Caring for Quality of Care: Symbolic Violence and the Bureaucracies of Audit

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Reviewer: Soren Holm

Reviewer's report:

This is a very interesting and well written paper on a very timely issue. The analysis and argument is clearly laid out and support the conclusion.

I have a few suggestions for Discretionary Revisions

1. Page 5, In what way is the quoted World Nursing Day slogan a 'meme' except in the trivial sense that every public utterance is a (potential) 'meme'?

2. Page 6, should be 'outwith the logic of care' not 'out with the logic of care'

3. Page 9, The discussion of the Goldenberg definition could perhaps be slightly more nuanced / illuminating. It is not strictly true that the definition 'highlights' what the authors claim it highlights. It does not define 'the relevant stakeholders' and therefore does not define how is subordinated or neglected either. It may be true that the definition combined with an analysis of Quality of Care practices highlights various issues, but that is different from the claim made here.

4. Page 12 and elsewhere, It is interesting that QoC practice focuses on procedures and not on outcomes and this might be worth a comment.

5. Page 13 (following from page 6), The claim about the objectification of practice being reductive seems true, but is it true because the account of 'care' preferred in the paper is so highly individualised / particularised that any attempt to say anything about care, except in the individual case of intersubjective interplay would be reductive? And if so, isn't some reduction a necessity if we are to say anything about whether the care given on ward A is good, bad or indifferent?

6. Page 15, Are 'legitimate' and 'illegitimate' forms of symbolic violence identical with 'good' and 'bad' forms, respectively. And if not does the semantic slip matter?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests