Reviewer’s report

Title: Re-energising the way we manage change in healthcare: The case for Soft Systems Methodology and its application to evidence-based practice

Version: 0 Date: 06 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Monica Nyström

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors!

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to read your manuscript! I have no immediate comments on this input into the debate on how to achieve changes in health care practices. It is an interesting and very important message on how to approach development, learning and change in relation to evidence-based knowledge and the complexity of both organisational systems and implementations and change processes within the healthcare system. The debate and message in this manuscript is in line with new trends of collaborative and partnership research and integrated knowledge translation (both of which you might want to refer to a bit more). One challenge is applying Soft Systems methodology lies in the understanding of what might be needed in terms of competence, investment, and time to work with these processes in organisations that demands "quick fixes" and changes that can be seen in a short-term perspective. For researchers, applying action research techniques in their projects it is demanding to be capable of both acting as consultant or facilitator of development and as a researcher adhering to the demands of the scientific society. Long term approaches, capacity and capability building and funding are some of the many issues that needs to be addressed. On the other hand adaptation of an intervention to the local situation and context and the involvement of important stakeholders and other actors is important in order to achieve real change and learning.

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
Do you want to get recognition for reviewing this manuscript? Add a record of this review to Publons to track and showcase your reviewing expertise across the world’s journals. Signing up is quick, easy and free!

Yes