Reviewer's report

Title: Migration-related detention centers: the challenge of an ecological perspective with a focus on justice

Version: 1 Date: 28 January 2015

Reviewer: Karen Hacker

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

The authors present an alternative approach to the study of migrant-detention related issues using Kelly's ecological principle to point out potential fields of study for the future.

This is an interesting approach to the study and points out missing areas that have largely gone under-studied in the literature and may provide a better overall understanding of the immigrant's experience, challenges and transition to a new culture.

However, the paper is quite unwieldy and it is difficult for the reader to clearly understand the take home points as outlined in table 2.

I believe that a reorganization of the paper would be helpful—see the following comments:

1) Abstract
   The background section should be rewritten to provide a clearly articulated state of the research and why a new lens is required. Similarly, the summary is quite confusing and should also be rewritten to summarize the objectives and recommendations of the paper.

2) Background
   The background is well researched but would benefit from simplification.

3) Discussion
   The discussion of Kelly's framework is helpful but as the author begins the discussion of each of the four principles, it becomes more difficult to follow the logic of the paper. There was extensive research done with adequate references but I found it hard to decipher the argument being made. Table two is very clear and I wish that the authors would use that table and perhaps a visual to describe how they are applying the four principles to the multiple levels. In addition, there is an inadequate explanation of why the author is analyzing each principle by the levels (personal, interpersonal, and communal). Perhaps, the plan for application of Kelly's model to the various levels should be spelled out very specifically in the first paragraph of the discussion, i.e. we intend to examine the four core principles and assess how they apply to each of three levels (describe why this is...
important). In doing so, we will identify future research questions that emerge from this approach. This would help frame the paper and the argument for the reader and ultimately the purpose.

4) Summary

It would be helpful to clearly articulate the areas for further research that emerge from using the recommended ecological approach.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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