Reviewer’s report

Title: How and Why Do Win-Win Strategies Work in Engaging Policymakers to Implement Health in All Policies? A Multiple-Case Study of Six State- and National-Level Governments

Version: 0 Date: 23 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Katarzyna Bolsewicz

Reviewer's report:

This is an article of importance in its field. Clear justification of the need for the paper, a systematic approach to case selection and qualitative data analysis (Table 2 provides a clear outline for the processes undertaken to analyse different streams of qualitative data; this was a helpful addition to the paper). Good discussion regarding key finding and potential reasons for differences between findings in Molnar et al. and own study.

I recommend some minor changes to strengthen the clarity of discussion. These include:

1) in section on 'Systems framework for studying HiAP implementation' section: a) Table 1 is not self-explanatory and it is not well integrated in the paper. How are you using systems theory components in this paper? b) The language around HiAP implementation from a systems perspective remains elusive. It was difficult to understand what you mean by 'emergent powers' and 'releasing potentialities' by 'developing synergies among different actors'. c) in describing your underlying epistemological approach (realism), while you described critical realism, a short explanation of realist methods is needed as well (and some reference).

2) in Methods section under 'Case selection and data collection': a) make a clear statement of the number of cases selected b) you did not describe the process to identify potential key informants (review of literature does not lend itself here) c) re-order the last 3 paragraphs in that section: currently out of order and some information is missing. Put information on literature search together. Include information on the process undertaken for your systematic search for evidence on your hypotheses (and, what makes it systematic?). Then, when you describe the process undertaken for phone or face to face interviews, better explain the process of approaching interviewees through to data collection, transcription and summary.

3) in 'Analysis' section: a) unpack a little what you mean by CMO (context-mechanism-outcome) pattern configuration and why using CMO? Is this related to your realist approach? This needs to be explained. b) what do you mean by thin and thick evidence? These concepts are then also included in Table 2. If you explain them better in text, Table 2 will become clearer as well.

4) an editorial check (i.e. 'oft-hidden' and 'gray')
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An article of importance in its field

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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