

Review of: "Cross-national associations of IQ and infectious diseases: Is the prevalence of Corona an exceptional case?"

Carlos Sampaio Laranjeira¹

¹ Instituto Politécnico de Leiria

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I appreciate the opportunity to review this manuscript and hope my comments assist in the revision process. The material is interesting and the topic is timely and relevant. The method seems to have been followed faithfully and the authors were well-positioned to conduct the analysis. Despite these positives, in my view, the paper needs more work before it could be published and I have made some specific suggestions below.

- Overall organization and clarity throughout the manuscript should be improved. For the introduction, a restructuring of the writing to provide more coherent and connected ideas and sections would be valuable. Brief synopsis or syntheses of ideas and relationships between or within constructs would improve flow dramatically. Further, reorganized the manuscript sections in terms of the content they report. I suggest the following structure, namely: introduction (explain the general argument of the paper, without going into specific details) background (situate the study concepts within the context of extant knowledge, discuss the international relevance of the concepts) and purpose, creating greater clarity in the analysis of the reader.

- What knowledge does this paper add from an international perspective? How this/your study is increasing our understanding/knowledge?

Discussion

- Some of the contributions that are highlighted here could be flagged in the introduction for a more consistent narrative throughout the paper. I believe there should be better integration of the results with the existing literature.

- A stronger discussion of implications for future research and potential intervention work is needed. Identify recommendations for practice/research/education/management as appropriate, and consistent with limitations, in order to more fully allow readers to understand the extent to which the authors were able to answer the research questions and to grasp the limitations of this study.

- Theoretical and methodological limitations should be emphasized more deeply.

CHECKLIST FOR STYLE The manuscript will serve a broad audience of students, researchers, and practitioners, however, the manuscript needs to be carefully and attentively proofread, because some sentences are awkwardly constructed, punctuation is deficient, and therefore reading is occasionally difficult to follow. That leads me to believe that it needs careful editing by a native English speaker.

