

Review of: "Square peg in a round hole: Migration and romantic relationship troubles in the UK Zimbabwean diaspora"

Farah Islam¹

¹ McMaster University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this very interesting research project.

INTRODUCTION

1. Can any previous literature be shared on the marriage and divorce rates of the Zimbabwean diaspora?
2. Can class of migration be broken down and statistics offered? (economic immigrant, refugee...)
3. Can statistics be shared of history of Zimbabwean migration to the UK with dates?
4. Might be helpful to talk about pre-migration, migration, and post-migration stressors

METHODS

1. Might want to make a note that these interviews were conducted BEFORE the COVID 19 pandemic/lockdown, which was a particularly challenging time for marriages.
2. Was data saturation achieved? How was that assessed?
3. I appreciate the breakdown and rationale behind using the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) approach
4. Was the sample collected by gender, age range, years since migration, or other parameters? There should at least be an equal distribution of men and women.

RESULTS

1. A sample profile should be shared of participant characteristics
2. Is it possible to add more info about the respondents when they are quoted? e.g Woman, divorced for 1 year, recent migrant (0-5 years in UK), etc.?
3. Did participants talk about seeking mental health support? (whether formal or informal)

CONCLUSION

1. "From this analysis, we can deduce that immigration into the UK has a negative association with the marital relationships of migrant couples. "Change this sentence to be more cautious – add "may" -- only divorced people were interviewed so conclusions can't be drawn from healthy marriages that lasted
2. More reference to past research and literature is needed throughout this section. Do the study findings corroborate

past research with other African diasporic communities?

3. What are the implications for couples therapy or counseling for people post-divorce? How can mental health programming help Zimbabwean immigrants build thriving marriages?