

Review of: "Emergent Prefigurative Politics and Social Psychological Processes: A Systematic Review and Research Agenda"

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This paper is extremely solid, and it benefits from a deep review of peer-reviewed literature. It is one of the best entries I have experienced in Qeios for the focus and for the quality of the review. The paper offers a comprehensive overview of the topic at hand, with clear definitions and an extensive theoretical, methodological, and thematic analysis of the field at hand. A few opportunities for extension from this paper into next steps seem intrinsically emerging from the choices made by the authors: 1) extension to equivalent literary reviews based on the same framework to peer-reviewed literature in French, Spanish, and Portuguese languages, in order to both enable a) potential inclusion of different and diverse theoretical traditions and schools, and b) potential inclusion of contributions from the Global South; and 2) extension to “grey literature” and non-peer-reviewed sources in terms of publications, with a comparable, yet adapted, framework, in order to include additional reflexive and cultural sources, which might offer less academic but more opinion-leading input. These steps might address self-acknowledged limitations within this paper. Thirdly, outside of the reflexive considerations by the authors, at theoretical and methodological levels, what seems noticeable is the lack of any reference to foresight and futures research literature and references: it might be worth to at least include a paragraph to take a position with reference to the domains of future sciences, in order to at least fulfil the potential expectations to connect to these academic and applied domains.

In terms of potential improvement of v3, these pertain to editorial structure: firstly, the research question seems rather implicit throughout the paper, namely, what is the status of peer-reviewed literature on the topic at hand. However, towards the end of the paper, namely after the “Discussion” and a due reflection on potential “misalignment,” a question emerges as a title in a paragraph: *“To what extent has existing research suggested the social psychological processes that facilitate the emergence of prefigurative politics through struggle?”* And this question, at this point of the paper, might read confusing. If the purpose of the paper was to address this question leveraging a(n impressive) base of bibliographic sources, then such a question should be clearly positioned as the outcome of the theoretical review. In this view, an editorial re-clustering of paragraphs might enable an even more impactful delivery of the insights and findings as defined.

The same principles apply to the two “Research Agenda” paragraphs. The proposals for novel or renewed theoretical frameworks are not clearly connected in a demonstrable fashion to the comprehensive review; therefore, the impression might be that the selection thereof happened in a vacuum. Likewise, the methodological notes might not be specifically referred to in the earlier review. Also, within the methodological proposals, the proposition to stretch future projects

beyond WEIRD countries (Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, Democratic) does not pertain to methodologies but to considerations of research strategy in terms of intent and interests. The point is clearly motivated by the inclusion of a minority quantity of papers in the present review; however, its allocation to the methodological considerations might not be most effective in terms of discussing opportunities and roadblocks towards improvement of the geopolitical spread of future studies.

“Limitations” and “Conclusions” seem very short in comparison with the richness of analysis and the value of considerations from the “Discussion” onwards. It might be worth considering how to expand these two paragraphs to make them more suitable to wrap up an otherwise excellent paper on a specific topic with high relevance.