

# Review of: "Identifying Psychological Distress Patterns during the COVID-19 Pandemic using an Intersectional Lens"

Diya Li L<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Texas A&M University - College Station

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper provides a compelling and comprehensive investigation into the patterns of psychological distress across the U.S. population during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Strengths:

1. The intersectional approach to data analysis is a significant contribution to the field, providing a nuanced understanding of how different social statuses interact to shape psychological distress levels.
2. The application of conditional inference trees and random forests is an innovative approach that allows for a data-driven estimation of health disparity predictors.
3. The discussion section offers a thoughtful interpretation of the results, emphasizing the importance of considering intersecting social statuses in understanding and addressing psychological distress during a pandemic.

## Areas for Consideration:

1. The paper could benefit from a more detailed explanation of the statistical methods used, particularly for readers unfamiliar with conditional inference trees and random forests.
2. A more explicit discussion of the study's limitations would be beneficial. For instance, potential bias introduced by self-reported data and the generalizability of the findings given the specific context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. It would be beneficial to include specific recommendations or suggestions for targeted interventions to address the identified psychological distress.

In conclusion, this paper is a significant contribution to our understanding of psychological distress during the COVID-19 pandemic. With minor revisions, it has the potential to be a valuable resource for both researchers and policymakers.