

Review of: "What Does the Future Hold for China's Private Economy? An Analysis of Sense of Insecurity for Chinese Entrepreneurs in the Private Sector"

Megan Zhang¹

¹ University College Dublin

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thanks for sharing such an interesting and well-written paper. My comments are focused on research methods and hope you find them useful.

First, the study uses the textual data. The exact analytic method is unclear, though it is claimed as a mixed research approach. I assume it thematic analysis. My suggestion is to follow the procedures of thematic analysis: generating initial codes, searching for themes, review themes and defining themes. The outcomes of thematic analysis are not hypotheses or propositions but identified themes and their relationships.

Second, the thematic analysis is to identify how people construct their accounts that influence their behaviours without judging them. For this part, you have had rich data for a single qualitative study based on thematic analysis. However, it seems unfair or unconvincing to conclude that people's accounts and fear do not make sense. This judgement is not a part of academic research. Therefore, the suggestion is to focus on themes emerging from entrepreneurs' accounts.

Third, you use secondary data to analyse the CCP's policy on the private economy and you find their increasingly positive attitude. As the matter of fact, scholars have used the Marketisation Index to measure the degree of privatisation in each province, and indeed its trend keeps rising. Therefore, the theoretical contribution of this part is limited. It might be better to keep this part in discussion, with showing the discrepancy between entrepreneurs' perception and the CCP's documents and discussing the potential reasons for such a discrepancy. Again, it is not a part of theory to judge whether those entrepreneurs are rational or whether CCP's approach is correct.

Best luck when developing this interesting study.

References:

Fan, G., & Wang, X. 2006. *NERI Index of Marketization of China's provinces 2006 report* Beijing, China: Economics Science Press.

Clarke, V., & Braun, V. (2013). *Successful Qualitative Research: A Practical Guide for Beginners*. SAGE.

