

Review of: "Spirituality of Pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago: Existential Questions and the Meaning of Life"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

An interesting piece of research uses a varied selection of work from other authors in the field to analyse the notion of pilgrimage, in this case, the Camino de Santiago, which can be replicated in the context of other similar pilgrimages.

The research question is rather philosophical, and the analysis is well supported by the interpretive paradigm. The author's interpretations and nature of reality of excerpts and themes from the work of a diverse range of writers provide a good background to how pilgrims may think, behave, and justify their actions. It also leaves the door open for further research involving interviewing, and perhaps even focus groups, of pilgrims to get a more active and personal "voice". This could be heightened by the author's first-hand experience in pilgrimages such as the Camino de Santiago and any other such pilgrimages that may have been undertaken.

A few paragraphs under the heading of "Existential Questions" where the author discusses culture introduce another dimension to the research, which is indeed interesting. The researcher could choose to supplement and strengthen this section. For example, Hall and Hall (1990) advocated culture-based communication in contexts, space, and time that is unique to each culture. Context, "information that surrounds an event... inextricably bound up with the meaning of the event" (Hall & Hall 1990, p.6), produces messages across cultures. It is not necessary to expand on the construct of culture, as that is a separate study in itself. A few lines would suffice to bring out the "voice" of pilgrims from various backgrounds and how it affects perceptions of pilgrimages.

A few suggestions that the author may consider:

- Perhaps look at more contemporary academic articles and books in this field. It would be interesting to see if the constructs and themes still hold similar meaning and values, especially after the past few years of turmoil that the world has gone through. A brief mention in the Conclusion section would suffice.
- Some areas in the article require dates for the in-text references cited.
- One area in your article, again a few lines would suffice, would be a little clarity as to what the "middle phase" and "whole period" are that you are referring to.
- There appears to be an overuse of the word "existential."

This is an interesting topic, and the author may consider accepting, or not, this review as the article itself is good.

