

# Review of: "Cross-national associations of IQ and infectious diseases: Is the prevalence of Corona an exceptional case?"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper studied the association between IQ and the COVID-19 pandemic at country level. The authors includes an extensive list of features, and conducted different regressions and path analyses to test for the association between IQ and COVID-19. The paper is well-organized, the methodology is validated and the results presented are very interesting. I recommend to accept this paper.

Highlights of the paper:

1. The description of features selected and the reasonings are clear and helpful
2. The data, the methodology are clearly described and well validated
3. Some limitations are well discussed, for example the authors tried to use alternative data sources for comparison.
4. The results presented are interesting.

Some comments:

1. The Results sections include a mixture of texts and numbers, which makes it a little hard to read. I suggest the authors think about alternative ways to express the content in a more efficient and clear way, maybe transforming the numbers in line to tables or figures.
2. The theoretical causal graph proposed seems thought-through, but there is always critiques about unobserved variables and they are almost inevitable for any study. There are established methods for sensitivity analysis for unobserved con founders. If the authors are interested in extending this paper about validity, I recommend looking into this area.