

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

Kesong Hu

**Potential competing interests:** I have no potential competing interests to declare.

This is a unique and exciting study. The authors used data from Pew Research and assessed how complex interactions among social status variables influence psychological distress levels. The conditional inference trees and random forest methods were used, and they concluded that their results provide insights into how multiple social statuses interact to shape psychological distress levels. They also addressed theoretical mandates to consider the intersecting influence of social statuses on mental health. Targeted interventions by mental health specialists were also discussed. I agree and believe that this study contributes to the extensive and ever-growing literature on the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on health.

I like this paper. If anything, I suggest the authors provide more details on how they conducted the tree-based statistical modeling, i.e., conditional inference trees and random forest methods. These methods are unique and new to the field; in my eyes, this is a new contribution.