

Review of: "Between Avoidance and the Need to Learn: Emerging Dynamics in the First Weeks of Classes in Higher Education in Angola"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper addresses a very crucial issue about Higher education in Angola. The theoretical framework, the methodology, data analysis are pertinent and appropriate. The text is innovative. The qualitative approach and the use of grounded theory by the authors produced an interesting paper.

I have two kind of suggestions to the authors:

1. Observations on some sentences (details)

- “*when there is cultural distancing between teachers and the teaching context?*”

I am not sure to understand the notion of *cultural distancing*. Probably most of academic staff in Angola are national citizens. So cultural distancing needs further development and may include the rural origin of some participants.

- “Angola is a recent country (independent since 1975), artificially added by colonialism. This has resulted in the coexistence of many cultural identities instead of a national one”.

All frontiers are artificial and not only in Africa and many countries in the world (including OECD countries) recognize positively their multiculturality. I do not think that many cultural identities in a country in an issue for higher education.

- “from their pre-existing knowledge”

You need to explain *pre-existing knowledge*. It may have two meanings: pre-existing knowledge from formal schooling and /or knowledge linked to *communities and families*.

As All students at the university in Angola come from secondary schools, I do not think that it is important point as secondary schools have the same sources of knowledge than universities. The second meaning may be more interesting in your paper but you need to elaborate on it from an epistemological, anthropological and cultural perspective.

1. Suggestions on more 2 important points

- As the study is using grounded theory. I would like to suggest you to give in the paper more information on the time researchers spent on the field in Angola and the language they used in the interviews. As there is no information about

the language in the paper, I suppose that is Portuguese. However, I think that using the mother tongues of participants is a better tool to catch the meaning of the first weeks of the semester. The excerpts from the interviews show somehow a limited perspective of students deep understanding of higher education in Angola.

- In the conclusion and discussion of your text, it seems important to tell us which of your conclusions are specific to Angola and which can be put forward for other education systems (including in developed countries). In particular, the distance between university education and the sociocultural realities of students may, to a large extent, be something universally shared.

I read your text with pleasure and I think that it has important value for educational research on Africa.