

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

Hind Elhinnawy¹

¹ Nottingham Trent University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is a very interesting research and a well-written paper. What I've written here is a few remarks to add depth to the paper and make the aims/objectives clearer. I am in favour of publication conditional on the following minor corrections.

Introduction:

- In the first paragraph, the authors write that "higher education frequency has increased two and a half times over the last twenty years". It is not very clear what they mean by this sentence. DO they mean that the number of people seeking to pursue higher education has more than doubled?
- At the end of the introduction, it will be useful to write a signposting paragraph where the authors explain the structure of the paper and provide a glimpse of the arguments to follow.

Context:

- Very well written, however, the tiny paragraphs at the beginning and the end of the section need some expansion to show depth of the ideas discussed.

First contacts with higher education:

- The title seems like a literal translation. I would recommend a change in the title to express the exact meaning of the title, which I suspect to be "the first few weeks' of student experience in higher education".
- In the second paragraph, line 7, the authors write "between students and between students and teachers". This should be "between students and each other, and between students and teachers".

Methodology:

- Here I would like to read more about the sample: number of students and some demographic data as well.
- Importantly, I would like to read about how/why have you chosen to interview this particular number. Have you felt you reached saturation? Or is it simply that this was the number of participants available for interviewing?

Results:

- In the first paragraph the authors write "Essentially, the results are in line with other investigations that confirm that

effective teaching must be sensitive to cultural and idiosyncratic elements of places (Colette, 2019; Kim, 2009; Smith, 2009; Tran et al., 2021), but they also bring new elements that, eventually, can be pondered in other contexts".

However, it is not very clear where in the paper they reviewed these 'other' investigations.

General Notes:

- The sentences are two long. It is worth considering dividing sentences into shorter ones.
- The authors refer to the students as "he". I believe this sounds very outdated. It is preferred to refer to the student as "they".
- Throughout the paper, it seems there is lack of comprehensive review of the literature. I would suggest adding a section, or perhaps expanding on the section titled "First contacts with higher education". This would also help uncover the real significance of the work.