

Review of: "International Clinicians and Academics Supporting the Refugee Journey- A Personal Experience and Perspective"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

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Review of Clive Kelly's manuscript, "International Clinicians and Academics Supporting the Refugee Journey: A Personal Experience and Perspective"

Good day, Clive,

First, my thanks to you for not only doing this important work with refugees, but also sharing your experiences so readers might gain a realistic sense of what is happening in other parts of the world. I believe your writing is strongest when you delve deeply into case studies and the reader is able to feel the danger and disruption to young lives, while at the same time, be astonished by their ability to remain positive and hopeful, for example, in your depiction of the twelve young boys coming out of the sewers.

I will leave you a few things to consider, but ultimately, they are up to you. First (page 1), the subtitle is a bit awkward, "A Personal Experience and Perspective". You are actually describing many experiences which are personal, and therefore, from your perspective. Better to name it accurately from the beginning, perhaps calling it a narrative (genre) from your field: "Personal Narratives from the Field".

There is also the question of audience. Usually, an author has a good idea for whom they are writing. Would this be aimed specifically at those in the medical field, or are you writing for a general audience? Your first sentence in the abstract reads informally, so as long as you are consistent in tone, we can assume you want to reach a large audience. You also mention that you will reflect on your roles, both as doctor and humanitarian. This is an interesting angle but we could use more of your views as a humanitarian to balance the medical perspective. For instance, is it the doctor who is motivated to buy land and finance children's education, or someone who sees promise in these children who are in horrid circumstances, perhaps thinking of his own children and the need to do something? Be sure to check every sentence for

repetition of ideas and words.

Page 2: Some statistics would be good to support what you are relating. Was your trip to Syria and Iraq your first encounter with displaced refugees?

Page 4: "...when covid reared its ugly head" -these phrases take the reader out of the story you are telling.

Page 6: this is the strongest narrative because you are able to use words that help the reader "see" what you were seeing. Here you are very human, someone who must do something to improve innocent children's lives. The reader knows who you are, and identifies strongly with your actions.

Page 8: The flow of your narrative is broken here and you go off on tangents. If you were writing a formal research paper, you could set this up from the beginning as presenting a problem, your thesis, your literature review, methodology, theoretical framework, findings, discussion and your conclusion, but you are stuck with narrative if you start off by exploring your stories. I think you might be able to insert some of the info on pages 9-10, and mention from the beginning that you will explore several encounters with migrants, and that you will later discuss the impact of politics on how and where they are able to settle and resume their lives (or not).

Pages 11-12: Consider adding a heading "Conclusions" where you summarize the key knowledge you have acquired, and what it means. Here you can add comments around politics and EDIJ because you are digging more deeply into ideas mentioned earlier that have evolved from these many experiences. This maintains the flow and consistency of your story. You will have to smooth out the topics that you discuss at the end and bring it all nicely to an end.

One small point: I am not entirely comfortable with a direct appeal for volunteers. I think it would be sufficient to leave a link to your organization's website and the reader will pick up on it. It is a rare person who can do this work.

I hope this has helped. Best of luck to you!

Susan