

Review of: "Post-Conflict Reconstruction: How Social Identity Change Informs our Understanding of the Ukrainian Experience of Forced Migration"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Congratulations on the article; it is very well-structured and addresses a completely recent and socially relevant topic. I particularly liked the introduction and how the problem faced by refugees in a new context, such as the United Kingdom, is presented. The methodology seemed appropriate, and the technique of "talking stones" is well-suited to the issue and the studied population. The major analysis categories seem fitting for the presented results and contribute new knowledge to the identity reconstruction process.

However, I believe there are some aspects that could be improved to provide greater clarity in the initial analysis. Among my suggestions are the following:

1. I missed a greater emphasis on the well-being theme, especially mental health, as mentioned in the introduction. How do the interviewees understand well-being? What aspects of well-being have improved or deteriorated in their transition to the UK? What role have support organizations played in addressing these issues? This is crucial, as it was explicitly mentioned in the introduction, but I feel it is not adequately explored in the results discussion. How have maintaining previous identities while acquiring new ones helped psychosocial well-being, especially concerning employment, which, for several interviewees, changed significantly and elicited a sense of loss? How does the author perceive the influence of this change on the current well-being of the interviewees?
2. Regarding the sample, I believe it would be interesting to know if differences were found in the age of the interviewees, since the roles and identities of a person in their 20s or 30s are different from those of a person in their 50s or 60s. Could it be said that younger people are more open or find identity transition easier than older individuals who have had defined roles for decades? For example, considering the interviewee who talked about changing her identity as she previously fulfilled the roles imposed by her parents.
3. Figure 1 provides a summary of the major categories, their components, and the relationships between them. I have a couple of comments on this: when readers go through the article, they might assume this is how the different categories relate, but then double-helix figures are presented without a proper transition. Why is this information presented in this order? I suggest explaining this transition more thoroughly. Figure 1 also depicts relationships (reduction or increase), but I find insufficient explanation of these relationships in the results or discussion text. Providing a better explanation of these relationships would strengthen the discussion section of the article.
4. In Figure 1 and the results text, communication and resource and knowledge components are presented as having

"equal weight." However, upon reading the results, I believe communication is much more crucial than resources (the author mentions that through communication, access to resources is possible). Additionally, the importance of language, not just English but also Russian or Ukrainian for interacting with other refugees, is mentioned several times. The choice to speak Ukrainian or Russian significantly affects the identity of refugees. I suggest including a more in-depth analysis of the role of communication in the identity construction process, especially considering that this identity exists before migration.

5. From the figures, I understand that solidarity is the transformative component from helplessness to self-determination. Still, I'm not entirely sure if the selected figures highlight this idea (apologies if this is not the original intent of the author). Particularly, the double-helix presented in Figure 3, where despair (red) transforms into self-determination. The figure is confusing for me, with an x-axis labeled "continuity of social identity" and a y-axis of gain. It would be clearer to explain what is meant by gain—perhaps well-being?
6. Finally, I believe it could be interesting to add some implications of the research, especially for public policy, social organizations, and mental health professionals dealing with these issues.