

Review of: "“Same team, different colours”: Examining the association between shared identity and interoperability in multi-agency discussion-based exercises"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I like the premises of the paper and I think it is addressing an important topic. It is well written and taps into important questions.

I have a few comments worth considering so. The topic of interoperability is important and I wonder whether more literature from operational science and intra- and intergroup relations might be informative here:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/poms.13660>

In a similar vein, it might be important to bring a stronger rationale for a SIA approach here. The work by Mühlemann et al., is very interesting but I'm not sure whether conceptually it makes sense as what you are looking at is not the emergence of a 'new organization'. A super-ordinate category in this domain might also be one as a 'first responder' and there's some research on this as well that you might want to include in your literature review.

I also have a few comments about your data and the analysis. I understand that you worked with a relatively hard to reach populations. However, the sample you have is very small, which makes it hard to draw definitive conclusions. It might be good to include some information on power or a sensitivity analysis.

Though your data is theoretically nested, the sample is way too small to conduct a multi-level analysis; it is not surprising that you don't find any results and it might be worth taking that bit out or to acknowledge the limitations.

I like the multi-method approach you chose with including the focus group data. Here it would have been interesting to get more insights into how exactly you analysed the data.