

# Review of: "Search for Meaning in the Professional Projects of Seniors at the End of Their Careers: an Interpretative Phenomenological Study"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

There is much to commend in this manuscript. The authors' topic, focus, and clarity are strengths. It is an engaging document to read. There are several aspects that could be improved or corrected.

The research method, referred to as Phenomenological Interpretive Analysis as described by Smith et al., is appropriate for the topic.

The authors leave some questions unanswered.

What was the interview schedule, topics, or other guidelines for the semi-structured interviews: how were the data elicited?

The sample of three is not out of bounds for the method, but it is unclear why three, not one or five or fifty persons was an adequate number.

"People aged between 50 and 64, born between 1959 and 1983..." These figures do not match.

How did the multiple authors deal with the question of "double helix" of trying to understand what participants are trying to understand (or at least present) about themselves?

This leads to the most significant limitation to the generally good study. It is hinted at by the authors. There is a tendency to generalize throughout the manuscript in a way that to this reader was less idiographic than one usually expects from early IPA/PIA works. The use of hypotheses is noteworthy because it is presumed to guide the collection of information. To this reader they seemed more like assumptions of the researchers than testable or usefully confirmable hypotheses.

I recommend some fine tuning of the good manuscript before publishing.