

Review of: "Interrogating the Role of Opinion Leaders in Media's COVID-19 Awareness Campaign to Mass Audience"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The subject of the article is interesting as well as the adopted methodology. However, there still remain several “doubts’ points” that should be improved: I suggest a major revision as follows:

Introduction: Please improve this part by adding the following references that may help the reader to better understand the background.

-De Rosis, S, Lopreite M, Puliga, M, and Vainieri M (2023). Emotions in Twitter and crises management during the early phase of coronavirus outbreak: Lessons from a BVAR analysis on Italy. Socio Economic Planning Sciences. First published online: 12th May. DOI: 10.1016/j.seps.2023.101610. ISSN 0038-0121

-De Rosis, S, Lopreite, M, Puliga M, Vainieri M (2021). “The early weeks of the Italian Covid-19 outbreak: sentiment insights from a Twitter analysis”, Vol 125, Issue 8, pp. 987-994. Health Policy. DOI:10.1016/j.healthpol.2021.06.006.

-Lopreite, M., Panzarasa, P., Puliga, M. et al. Early warnings of COVID-19 outbreaks across Europe from social media. Sci Rep 11, 2147 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-81333-1>

Introduction. Please reduce the discussion relative to COVID disease.

Introduction: Please add more references when you discuss of the “gatekeeping process”.

Method: The authors affirm to use the random sampling in selecting the sample. I am not sure that this method is really robust. Please discuss better this point and consider further techniques that allow to select “representative sample”

Please discuss the section “Conclusion” in terms of “Policy implications”

Please discuss the limitations of the study

A linguistic review is strongly suggested.