

Review of: "Square peg in a round hole: Migration and romantic relationship troubles in the UK Zimbabwean diaspora"

Tafadzwa Carlington Chigariro

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is an interesting article intercepting subjects of immigration and nuptiality as they relate to both places of origin and the places of destination. The article also covers an area where there is a dearth of literature.

The paper also presents very strong recommendations for consideration by policy makers and has potential to introduce additional key recommendations for practitioners in the areas of immigration and nuptiality.

However, contribution of this paper to the scientific body could be strengthened by improving on the following areas;

Editing:

- The manuscript requires further editing to eliminate unnecessary repetitions and improve the flow. For example, paragraph 3 under 'Participants' unnecessarily repeats information covered under the 'Design' paragraph.
- Move the last part of the second paragraph under 'Analysis' to the 'Results' section.
- Paragraph 1 under 'Results' should be rewritten and moved to the 'Background' section.
- Etc.

Study participants / subjects:

- The study delves into matters of / relating to GBV / IPV which are key to the subject matter (romantic relationship troubles) under discussion. However, insights into the demographics of the study respondents – gender and age ranges in particular – will help better interpret the data.
- Related to the above, the data seems to suggest a bias towards female respondents. Please explain and take care of this in the analysis.
- Can the findings be generalised to all immigrants or certain groups? For instance, are migrants whose paperwork is in order or those in better financial situations equally affected.

Analysis and conclusions:

- The link between 'Migration' and 'Romantic relationship troubles' is not clearly articulated. Would we expect to obtain different results if the same study is conducted at the place of origin? There is need to further expound on how immigration and the new environment interact and shape the heritage culture imported from the place of origin. Additionally, account for the general degeneration of social norms and cultures as well as worsening economic

challenges at the place of origin which might have a cancelling effect on deterioration of romantic relationships.

- There is need to separate social norms and economic issues as far as they are determinants of romantic relationship troubles.

Discussion of the findings:

- There is need to discuss the findings and triangulate existing literature and insights from other scholars. The following publications are among other worth noting: Gaarls and Mazzucato (2015) Does International Migration Lead to Divorce? Ghanaian Couples in Ghana and Abroad; Cook (2008) Moving and Union Dissolution; and; Fresnoza-Flot and de Hart (2022) Divorce in transnational families: Norms, networks, and intersecting categories.
- Some scholars have suggested that there are areas where relationships have been strengthened by migration. Did any of the respondents fall into this category and what recommendations can be drawn here.
- Consider introducing a section on 'Discussion of finding'.

Recommendations

- Consider introducing recommendations for professionals with an interest in the subject matter such as marriage counsellors, social workers, psychologists, legal and para legal practitioners. What can they learn from the study?
- Any recommendations for sending countries and couples planning to migrate in the future to preempt the challenges of enculturation.