

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.

I found this manuscript very interesting to read and I related to the topic personally being in the age group defined as senior. I felt the methodology could be improved and below are some detailed suggestions to assist with improving the quality and presentation of the manuscript, which I hope the authors will find useful.

Background and Literature Review:

1. It would be good to start the manuscript by providing some context of the issue in France, such as the age of retirement and financial options; total numbers of persons in this category and if available, how many people in this category are currently working and of those, how many work full-time, and part-time.
2. Articulating the problem of concern/issue to be researched more clearly would be beneficial. Some questions to consider: Why has the search for meaning in life and work become a growing concern in modern society? What happens if people do not find meaning in their work at this stage of life? Are there mental health consequences that need to be considered; are there financial burdens on the country? What is the significance of this research? How will it help? Some of this you refer to in your discussion, but would be good to have some sense of this in background as well.
3. Please check the references that you have in text with the reference list, as there appears to be some missing (e.g. Prouet & Rousselong 2018; DARES).
4. The text would benefit from the inclusion of more literature and a critical evaluation of this. There are several statements within the text that should be referenced (e.g. the 1st and 2nd paragraph under the heading "In-depth Exploration of the Meaning of Life and Work").

Methodology:

1. A definition of terms such as "Professional projects" would be useful.
2. Line 2: please reconsider wording as you claim that individuals in senior age group all "undertake significant introspection". You have not presented the evidence for this, and it is likely that not all people will do this type of life reflection.
3. Please state the aims and objectives of the research more clearly. I note that other reviewers have noted the inappropriate use of hypotheses. When using this type of qualitative approach, you are exploring and describing the

phenomenon of interest. You may develop hypotheses from your findings that could be used for further exploration and possibly testing quantitatively but no usual to state them up front.

4. It would be important to provide more details about the method procedures used. How many questions were asked in the interview? Could you provide an example of some of the questions? How were participants recruited? Who conducted the interviews? Was an institutional ethical approval obtained? Were the interviews digitally recorded and transcribed?
5. I note that you only had 3 participants in your sample and that they were interviewed twice. This is limited data and either more participants, or further interviews with the same participants would enhance the quality of the findings. Also, are the names used pseudonyms?
6. How was the data analysed and by who? It's important to provide details. Also, what strategies were used to ensure the trustworthiness of the findings?
7. What were the dates of the data collection period?

Results:

1. The themes and categories make sense, and it appears you have some very rich data. Table 2 summarises your findings well. Analysis could be taken to a higher level of abstraction with the inclusion of more data and reflection on the relationship between the themes.

Discussion:

1. It's important to change the tense to past in the final version of the manuscript (e.g. first paragraph "This study **explored** ..."; "The aim **was** to ...")
2. It would be good to provide the reader with more detail about the literature referred to such as Martela & Stegar (2016); Bernaud (2021); and Frankl (2017), to be able to compare with your findings.

Conclusion:

Care needs to be taken drawing conclusions about female attributes with such a limited sample (Sentence 1, 1st paragraph), and also the wellbeing and resilience of seniors (paragraph 2), without previous provision of evidence (current findings or previous literature) in text.

Overall:

The research conducted shows useful and promising findings. In consideration of the methodological limitations identified, it might be good to consider this work as a starting point from which a more robust study could be undertaken.