

8th June 2020

Confidential

Dear Dr. Pickett,

I am writing to inform you that we commissioned a review, by three independent referees, of “School social bonds, school climate, and school misbehavior: A multilevel analysis” Justice Quarterly, 20(3), 2003 and its underlying data. On the basis of this review we, the editors and the publisher, have taken the decision to retract the article.

We are retracting because the extent of the errors, the absence of Dr. Stewart’s original dataset, and the inability of both Dr. Stewart and the referees to replicate the article’s analyses from currently available data, cast doubt over the accuracy and reliability of the research results and conclusions.

We wrote to Dr. Stewart, inviting him to respond to the concerns you expressed, which he did do. Following our correspondence with him, we commissioned three referees to conduct an independent review. We provided the referees with a copy of the article, copies of the material you sent us in support of the concerns you raised, and copies of the material Dr. Stewart sent us in support of his refutation. The referees found that the article contains numerous errors in the reporting or analyses of the data. None of them could replicate Dr. Stewart’s analyses, and they further expressed concern that Dr. Stewart was also unable to replicate his analyses. Consequently, the referees questioned the validity of the results reported in the article. It is not possible, in our view, to reach a conclusion as to whether misconduct occurred.

Thank you for raising your concerns with us. We take these matters exceptionally seriously and have conducted our review in accordance with COPE guidance and our own Routledge, Taylor & Francis policy on publishing ethics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zoe Sternberg". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Zoe Sternberg

Head of Portfolio for Criminology

Routledge, Taylor & Francis