

Author's Feedback against Editorial Comment:

CHANGES MADE IN HIGHLIGHTER RED IN TEXT

Here, I pointed out some questions that need to be addressed.

1. What is the period of before and during depression years for Iceland, Ireland, Greece and Latvia? Authors have not clarified them in the section of Material and Methods.

Excuse this oversight. The following has been added to the methods section:

The following years were identified as just prior to depression years and depression years respectively for each of the countries in this paper: Iceland : 2004-2008, 2009-2010; Ireland: 2004-2006 , 2007-2010; Greece: 2004-2007, 2008-2012; Latvia: 2005-2007, 2008-2010.

2. The years in all the Tables are confusion. For example: In Table 1: Iceland was analyzed in 2004-2008, 2009-2010; Ireland in 2004-2006, 2007-2010, etc. I guess these years are the periods before and during depression. Please make it clear in the section of Material and Methods and don't let reader guess.

As above

3. The statistic methods in this manuscript are too basic to reveal significant results.

Very basic statistics had to be used as:

- A. *Almost only annual data was available.*
- B. *M/F may swing spontaneously over long stretches of time (Gini) so short periods must be considered. This does not leave you with many options other than chi tests.*
- C. *I have published several papers (see: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=grech+gender+ratios>) and this methodology has been accepted due to the nature of the variables as explained above.*

4. Table 3 is not mentioned in the section of Results.

Correction made

5. The format of all the Tables is not standard. They need some footnotes to make it clear. What are UCI, LCI in Table 1-3?

The following footnote had been added to all three tables: (LCI: lower confidence interval, UCI: upper confidence interval).