

Review of: "Airbase Compatibility with Spatial Planning: A Case Study of Airbase Waterkloof (South Africa)"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I am commenting on the paper with as a researcher in sustainability sciences. While I find great the overall idea of studying spatial planning through an acoustic lens, my point of view is that this paper would benefit from anchoring in social and environmental issues. The “acoustic battle” began in the beginning of twentieth century with the progressive addition of new anthropic noises due to industrial and economic growth. However, this critical perspective only focused on noise in its quantitative aspects, in relation to its direct influence on human health. Some concepts like the soundscape (Murray-Schafer) were developed to introduce a more nuanced view on the noise question. So the point here is: can’t we also consider the type of sound, in complement to its volume? This precise study could be developed by opening a local debate on sounds that matter and those that should be toned down. I contend, in line with other thinkers (Quentin Arnoux, Bernie Krause), that hears can help in the development of a proximity with environmental issues: hearing is 360° and you can’t close your hears !