

Review of: "How Effective are Tabletop Role-Playing (Serious) Games in Understanding and Validating the Predictive Capabilities of Disaster Response Agent-based Models?"

Mohamad Masykurin Mafauzy¹

¹ Universiti Sains Malaysia

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Strengths of the research

Methodology: The integration of RPGs with ABMs is a novel approach that enhances the validation process of predictive models. This combination allows for a more interactive and engaging way to assess model outcomes, which is a significant advancement in the field of disaster response modeling.

Results: The use of pre- and post-assessment tests to measure knowledge gains among participants provides robust empirical evidence supporting the effectiveness of RPGs in improving understanding of disaster management.

Discussion: By concentrating on disaster response, the paper addresses a critical area where effective decision-making is essential. The findings have the potential to inform training programs for emergency responders, thereby contributing to better preparedness and response strategies in real-world scenarios.

Areas for Improvement

Clarification of Results: While the authors mention "partial model validity" and "clear variation in the outcomes," it would benefit from a more detailed discussion of what these terms mean in the context of the study. Can you provide specific examples or case studies to illustrate what is meant by 'partial model validity' and 'clear variation in the outcomes'? Providing specific examples or case studies could enhance the reader's understanding of the implications of these findings.

Broader Contextualization: The authors could strengthen their argument by situating its findings within the broader literature on RPGs and ABMs. Could you include a brief discussion on how this study's findings compare to or diverge from previous research on RPGs and ABMs in disaster response? A more comprehensive literature review that discusses previous studies and how this research builds upon or diverges from them would provide valuable context for the reader.

Future Research Directions: The authors could benefit from a section dedicated to future research directions. Discussing potential avenues for further exploration, such as different types of RPGs or varying disaster scenarios, would

provide a roadmap for subsequent studies and highlight the ongoing relevance of this research area.