

# Review of: "Decoding Social Systems: Agent-Based Modeling in Understanding Tourism Dynamics, with a Case Study on Phu Quoc Island"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper examines the prospects for tourism development on Phu Quoc Island with respect to the diversity of its areas.

In the introductory sections, the author succinctly explains concepts such as multi-agent techniques, simulation, and modelling. He then mentions these in the context of social sciences.

However, some formulations are questionable, e.g., *"The purpose of simulation is not to build theories but to produce in a controlled manner analyzable data, typically coming from the experiments themselves rather than from system observation results."*

But here the question arises, what to understand by experiments in social areas? The influence of marketing? Government strategic intentions, support for certain areas, setting up possible subsidies?

The text uses GIS data, indicates codes, but the results are only descriptive, e.g., which part of the country is at increased risk of flooding, gives historical data from the last 10 years or so, and instead of clear calculation results, Chapter 5, "Results and Discussion," is based on government decisions formulated in relevant Prime Minister's documents.

The application of agent-based modelling, including the combination of ArcGIS with ABM modeling software, is not at all clear.

The concluding remarks on the software tools are more a characterization of their parameters and functionalities than a guide on how to use them. It only recommends which software should be used.

Formal shortcomings:

- In the figures (on pages 1, 3, 4, 6, 9), many words are not in English and are incomprehensible to the non-Vietnamese reader.
- Page 6: "between 2018 and 2014" – the lower value should be the first in the interval determination.