

Review of: "The Moderating Effects of Urban Design on Willingness to Walk in a Tropical City"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The present study aims to reveal the effects of urban design on walking outcomes in real-world environments.

Motivated by the fact that, according to the author, it remains unclear to what extent urban design mitigates patterns of low kinetic effort within the context of a tropical climate, which induces these response-related outcomes.

The author also points out that, in general, human responses to stressful thermal conditions and perceived walking capacity, as well as actual behaviors in these environments, still need to be better understood.

The topic is interesting, mainly because the study was conducted in a tropical city, where severe temperature and humidity often increase the population's thermal discomfort. However, the results of this study do not appear to be directly associated with climatic conditions.

Some questions may be considered: Is the sample size of 101 participants significant? The results fall short by not showing a breakdown by age group and gender.

As noted by the author, the results of this study support the alternative hypothesis that climate is only one of several determinants of voluntary walking distance in a commercial district in a tropical city. The physical characteristics of the walking environment play a predominant role in evaluating an individual's inclination to walk more, as well as in the actual extent of their walking. While physical comfort factors were observed and directly related to WTW (Willingness to Walk), the accumulation of other factors played a more significant role in perceptions and subsequent behavior.

These results do not hold true for several other cities in tropical regions, mainly for cities located in developing countries with much more degraded environmental conditions than Singapore.