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

Carole Adam[1]

1 Université Grenoble Alpes

After reading the title, I am a bit disappointed with the contents of the paper. The title is very generic and promises "decoding social systems," but the paper is actually a case study dedicated to one specific island. Besides, there does not seem to be any agent modelling, since the case study relates to the surface temperature on the island; the contribution is mainly in the use of GIS tools (ArcGIS). The agents, attributes, behaviours… (if any) are not specified. The NetLogo screenshot shows a monitor and plot of "happy agents," but nothing in the text explains who the agents are or when they are happy or not.

The definitions of modelling vs. simulations are confused. The two terms refer to two different concepts that must be clarified. The references used to support the growth of the field in the "last 2 decades" are precisely 2 decades old: more recent references should be considered. The chronology of the bibliography about agents is also mixed up: Espié (1995) is said to "reinforce the perspective" of Epstein (2002), himself "expanding the notions" of Bandini et al. (2009).

The simulation platform chosen is NetLogo, though it is not explained why it is preferred to others. In particular, GAMA also provides extensive GIS tools that are ignored here.

The discussion and conclusion are quite short and do not "decode" any social systems. Rather, the paper concludes that simulation can support more accurate decision-making, but it does not seem to have proven that.

Some figures are in Vietnamese, so they cannot be understood by most international readers.