

**Do smart cities have lower PM2.5? Evidence from China**

Original Submission  
Simon Huston, Ph.D

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**Recommendation:** Minor Revisions

**Overall Manuscript Rating (1 - 100):** 60

**Transfer Authorization**

**Response**

My reviewer report is complete.

Yes

I am ready to transfer my reviewer report to the Editors.

Yes

**Reviewer Comments to Author**

Although 'smart city' appears > 160 x in paper, the notion seems undefined nor the nuances of its dialectic considered e.g. Yigitcanlar, T. (2015). Smart cities: an effective urban development and management model?. Australian Planner, 52(1), 27-34 or Young, R. F., & Lieberknecht, K. (2019). From smart cities to wise cities: ecological wisdom as a basis for sustainable urban development. Journal of Environmental Planning and Management, 62(10), 1675-1692.  
 p2,5-7: Since reform and opening up, China's rapid economic development has also paid [has come at] a huge environmental price (Dudley, 2018).  
 p2, 23-5 more updated citations on health impacts? to substantiate claims of life impact of five years and causes great harm to residents' physical and mental health (Beelen et al., 2014; Wu et al., 2017)  
 p2, 51 readers might appreciate some insights into 'China's traditional urban governance model is hard to rid of the pollution curse  
 p8, 12-15 'but there are still few literatures on how smart city pilot policies affect PM2.5' consider revising phrase that curranty seems cumbersome?  
 e.g. there are gaps in the more focused literature on ....  
 Stronger explanation of 'difference in differences' needed e.g. 'The DiD method is a quasi-experimental approach that compares the changes in outcomes over time between a population enrolled in a program (the treatment group) and a population that is not (the comparison group) etc.  
 p41,57-p42, 1: Awkward sentence 'Base[d] on the main findings... Consider revision to something like, 'The main findings suggest...?  
 p42,44-47 Unsupported statement of fact, (what govt. ostensibly did) rather than policy recommendation (normative statement involving model verb 'should')  
 p43, 9-33 Consider rephrasing as seems quite vague, confusing and unconvincing. Is 'Internet of things' -planning wisdom?  
 p43, 36 Contested notion of 'human capital' is not defined with range of convincing authority e.g. consider P. Bourdieu's The Forms of Capital (1986) as accumulated labour that is often appropriated  
 p44, 7-13 consider re-phrasing to broaden relevance of article for residents of multi-party democracies

**Reviewer Confidential Comments to Editor:**

Question 1: The subject addressed in this article is worthy of investigation

- 1) Strongly disagree
- 2) Disagree
- 3) Neutral
- 4) Agree
- 5) Strongly agree

Ans: 5

Question 2: The information presented is new

- 1) Strongly disagree
- 2) Disagree
- 3) Neutral
- 4) Agree
- 5) Strongly agree

Ans: 5

Question 3: The conclusions are supported by the data

- 1) Strongly disagree
- 2) Disagree
- 3) Neutral
- 4) Agree
- 5) Strongly agree

Ans: 3

Question 4: The manuscript is appropriate for the journal

- 1) Strongly disagree
- 2) Disagree
- 3) Neutral
- 4) Agree
- 5) Strongly agree

Ans: 4

Question 5: Organization of the manuscript is appropriate

- 1) Strongly disagree
- 2) Disagree
- 3) Neutral
- 4) Agree
- 5) Strongly agree

Ans: 4

Question 6: Figures, tables and supplementary data are appropriate

- 1) Strongly disagree
- 2) Disagree
- 3) Neutral

4) Agree  
5) Strongly agree  
Ans: 4

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