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Handout on referee reports for papers submitted as „Forschungsbeitrag / Research Article“

Papers published in the category “Forschungsbeitrag / Research Article” primarily contribute to the national or international discourse in spatial sciences. It is expected that such papers include:

- An appraisal of the state of research and the positioning of the paper with its research interests and questions in this body of knowledge,
- A consideration of the research object from a theoretical and conceptual perspective and/or on an empirical and analytical basis,
- A clear presentation of the methodological approach and the set(s) of data used,
- Critical reflection of the chosen methodology and the findings obtained,
- Presentation of the findings,
- A succinct conclusion that critically evaluates the research results and positions them in the relevant spatial science debate,
- Consideration of the need for further research.

We kindly ask you to particularly consider the following criteria when reviewing the paper, to explain your evaluations with comments, and finally to provide a clear recommendation.

Assessment criteria for the referee report:

- Positioning in the academic discourse (e.g. convincing, one-sided, selective, missing...)
- Originality and novelty (e.g. new aspects illustrated, further developed, little original content...)
- Structure (e.g. stringent, requires some revision, poorly structured…)
- Consistency of contents/ appropriateness of the title and abstract and their fit with the main text (e.g. very good, requires improvement, unsystematic…)
- Consideration of the current debate (e.g. convincing, requires some elaboration, incomplete…)
- Tables and figures (e.g. appropriate, compelling, require improvement, redundant…)
- Other comments

Please organize your feedback as follows:

- Please provide the review text in a separate document (comments in the manuscript will not be considered in the review procedure)
- A short summary of the paper’s core in about 1-2 sentences,
- An overview of the positive aspects of the paper (e.g. what works well and should be preserved),
- The key points that require revision and suggestions as to how they should be improved,
- Short comments about what the authors should take into consideration during the revision.
- [optional] If the authors should refer to a wider range of literature as part of their revision of the paper, please list the full bibliographical references of the suggested sources at the end of your report.

The Open Journal System (OJS) suggests the following recommendations:

- Accept Submission
- Minor Revisions Required
- Major Revisions Required
- Decline Submission
- See Comments

Critical and constructive feedback about how they should revise their paper is essential for authors. Please formulate the feedback in the way you would like to receive. The editors-in-chief would also like to highlight that it is not necessary to correct errors of spelling and grammar. The paper will undergo language polishing.

If any conflicts of interest should arise for you as a referee (e.g. if you have co-authored publications with the author or worked on joint research projects in recent years), please let us know. We ask that you complete your referee report in the language used in the submitted paper. Your review will be passed on to the author in an anonymised form. We reserve the right to shorten the referee report.

We would like to thank you for your time and your willingness to referee a paper for the journal “Raumforschung und Raumordnung | Spatial Research and Planning”. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

The Editors-in-Chief