



REVIEW REPORT (A)

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Decision: Revisions Required

The paper makes an important contribution to the Special Issue “Coastal Squeeze: Beaches under Socio-Economic and Ecological Pressure” by addressing two central questions: (1) who holds legitimate access to nature understood as a common good, and (2) how moralities of commerce in natural spaces are constructed.

Building on the idea that beaches are not merely physical spaces or legal categories, but social spaces shaped by temporality and interaction, the paper treats the beach as a site of seasonal transformation. It focuses on the figure of the beach vendor to show how commerce itself can become a mechanism for legitimizing access to nature. Specifically, the paper explores how vendors—both local and outsiders—negotiate their presence and legitimacy through appeals to personal histories, such as being long-time residents (insiders) or experienced street vendors in urban areas (outsiders).

These negotiations are embedded in what Viviana Zelizer calls commercial circuits, and they unfold in the broader context of beach grabbing: a process in which economic actors appropriate beach spaces through commerce. This appropriation is not uniform—it is shaped by the coexistence of different commercial circuits and material configurations that vary across what the paper refers to as Beach Time (the high season) and the off-season (which could benefit from a more precise conceptual framing and naming).

Five suggestions can enhance the paper's contribution:

1. Title: Consider a more integrative title, such as “The Argentine Beach as Workspace: Temporalities, Materialities, and Social Entanglements”, to highlight the core arguments.

2. Temporal framing: Clarify and name the off-season more explicitly, particularly in relation to its economic and symbolic distinctions from Beach Time. Developing the idea of the beach as a non-commercial space in the off-season could strengthen this dual-temporality framework.

3. Public perceptions of commerce: Further explore how beach vendors are viewed by Argentine society. The video mentioned—where a couple reflects on their trip to the beach and their impressions of beach vendors—is highly illustrative. Do Argentinians see commerce as disrupting the beach experience? Even in the absence of conclusive data, raising this debate opens up valuable questions about how commercial circuits intersect with forms of spatial appropriation.

4. Elaborate more fully on the dual role of the beach as a selling place and a working place. How do beach vendors navigate these overlapping functions, and what do these negotiations reveal about broader processes of socio-economic positioning and informal labor in natural spaces?

5. Argument flow: Some reorganization of the argument—such as grouping related discussions and inverting the order of certain points—is suggested in the annotated manuscript.