



REVIEW REPORT (B)

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Decision: Accept

The article presents a clear argument and concise, objective writing. It effectively presents and analyzes a set of archival materials that form the empirical base of the study. Notably, it includes full transcriptions of letters that provide strong empirical support for the theoretical framework.

From a sociological perspective, the article shows strong theoretical and conceptual understanding, effectively using concepts such as contested market and fictitious commodity to explore its empirical focus: the concession of coastal land use. The beach area is understood as a dynamic ecosystem, shaped socially and physically by various actors, including public officials, local representatives, beach managers, and environmental association spokespeople. This approach aligns with contemporary sociology of space, which views territory not as fixed or neutral, but as a historically and relationally produced space resulting from symbolic disputes, political interests, and institutional practices. The article acknowledges the close link between material and symbolic dimensions in the social production of coastal space.

The methodology is strong, offering careful analysis of the power relations involved, especially regarding how material space is transformed into symbolic space, highlighting ongoing disputes and negotiations.

The article makes a strong case that the "desire for the seaside" and the transformation of the beach into an economic asset through concession mechanisms help explain the historical interactions between state and non-state actors. It clearly shows which interests aligned with or diverged from institutional goals at different historical moments.

Thus, the article makes a strong case that Pampelonne Beach underwent a process of usage concession that gave it dual roles: coastal regulation and public revenue generation.

A minor editorial point to address is that the English abstract does not mention the study's time frame (1912–1972), which is included in the Portuguese and Spanish abstracts.