

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52792

Date: 14.07.2025

Title: *Digital Geoarbitrage, Workation, and Remote Work Migration in Lisbon, Madeira, and Las Palmas*

Recommendation:
Accept as it is :
Accept after minor revision : <i>Acceptance with Minor Revisions</i>
Accept after major revision:
Do not accept (<i>Reasons below</i>)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: Dr. MURALIDHARA S V **Date:** 14.07.2025

Comments (*Use additional pages, if required*)

REVIEWER'S COMMENT:

This paper offers a valuable contribution to the digital nomadism literature through well-structured case studies of three Iberian cities, with particularly strong theoretical grounding and a novel distinction between digital nomadism and "workation." However, the authors overstate causal relationships between nomad presence and housing market changes, given that digital nomads represent less than 2% of local populations and rental inflation likely has multiple contributing factors including general tourism recovery and post-pandemic economic shifts. The heavy reliance on secondary data without resident perspectives also weakens claims about social and cultural impacts. **RECOMMENDATION: ACCEPT WITH MINOR REVISIONS** - specifically, replace definitive "impact" language with "associations," acknowledge alternative explanations for observed trends, and expand the limitations section. With these adjustments, this becomes a solid 7.5/10 contribution to urban mobility studies.

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Strengths

- **Strong theoretical framework** grounded in critical urban and mobility studies
- **Novel conceptual contribution** distinguishing "workation" from formal digital nomadism
- **Solid empirical data** documenting rental increases (65% Lisbon, 26% Las Palmas, 30% Madeira)
- **Policy relevance** with practical recommendations for inclusive governance
- **Clear methodology** using comparative case study approach

Main Issues Requiring Revision

1. Causal Language (Priority 1)

- Replace definitive "impact" statements with "association" or "correlation"
- Acknowledge alternative explanations for housing price increases
- Housing inflation likely has multiple causes beyond digital nomads

2. Data Limitations (Priority 1)

- Expand discussion of reliance on secondary sources
- Acknowledge absence of resident perspectives
- Note lack of ethnographic data on cultural integration

3. Economic Analysis (Priority 2)

- Include discussion of costs vs. benefits for local governments
- Address economic multiplier effects
- Consider broader sectoral impacts

Minor Technical Corrections

- *Strengthen causal language throughout (lines 308, 361, 438)*
- *Ensure consistent citation formatting*
- *Define "geoarbitrage" earlier in text*
- *Add summary table of key statistics by city*

Assessment

Quality: 7.5/10 **Contribution:** Moderate to High **Methodology:** Good (with noted limitations) **Policy Relevance:** High

The paper makes a solid contribution to emerging literature on digital nomadism. The main weakness is establishing direct causation between nomad presence and urban changes, but this is acknowledged. The comparative approach provides valuable insights into how different urban contexts respond to remote work migration.

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Required revisions are minor and focus on tempering causal claims rather than fundamental methodological issues. With these adjustments, this represents a strong contribution to urban mobility literature.