

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: **IJAR-52894**

Date: 21-07-2025

Title: Confronting Socioeconomic Racism in the Context of Urban Flooding in the Northeast

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

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

Reviewer Name: Dr Abdul Hameed Shah

Overview:

This study presents a rigorous and timely analysis of the intersection between environmental hazards and historical socioeconomic inequities, focusing on urban flooding in New York City. By combining remote sensing, geospatial analysis, and socio-demographic data, the research effectively illuminates the lasting impacts of redlining and structural racism on flood vulnerability in marginalized communities.

Title and Abstract:

The title is direct and captures both the thematic concern (socioeconomic racism) and the contextual focus (urban flooding). The abstract is concise, data-rich, and well-structured, clearly articulating the scope, methodology, results, and broader implications. It successfully communicates the gravity of the issue and positions the findings within a climate justice framework.

Research Focus and Relevance:

The study bridges environmental science, urban geography, and social justice by quantifying flood exposure in relation to historical redlining. This multi-disciplinary relevance enhances its academic and policy significance. The research contributes to a growing body of literature on environmental racism, particularly through empirical geospatial evidence.

Methodology:

The application of Sentinel-1 SAR imagery via Google Earth Engine reflects a high level of technical sophistication. The choice to analyze both current (2018–2021) and projected flood risk under different climate scenarios demonstrates methodological thoroughness. Use of the Social Vulnerability Index and crime statistics adds socio-structural depth to the environmental data, enabling nuanced interpretations.

Organization and Structure:

The study follows a logical and accessible structure, as evidenced by the table of contents. Each section builds coherently on the previous, beginning with the historical and geographical background and culminating in a robust discussion of findings and implications. The segmentation of results into present and future risk, alongside socioeconomic factors, allows for clarity and comparative insights.

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Findings:

The results are striking, with clear numerical contrasts between historically redlined “Hazardous” areas and “Best” zones. The documentation of disproportionate flood exposure, higher social vulnerability, and lower household income in redlined zones provides compelling evidence of systemic inequities. The study successfully ties these findings to broader discussions of climate resilience and justice.

Conclusion and Implications:

The conclusion reinforces the broader societal relevance of the study, emphasizing the need for equity-centered urban planning and climate adaptation. By connecting historical discrimination to contemporary environmental challenges, the work adds both academic depth and moral urgency to urban resiliency discourse.

Overall Assessment:

This is a highly impactful, methodologically robust, and socially conscious piece of research. It exemplifies the effective integration of environmental data with socioeconomic analysis to confront entrenched inequalities. The study stands as a significant contribution to climate justice literature and urban policy planning in the context of the Northeast United States.