Comment on cp-2021-117
Anonymous Referee #2

Referee comment on "Climate history of the principality of Transylvania during the Maunder Minimum (MM) years (1645–1715 CE)" by Martin Stangl and Ulrich Foelsche, Clim. Past Discuss., https://doi.org/10.5194/cp-2021-117-RC2, 2022

Undoubtedly an interesting paper that offers important reflections on the desideratum of Transylvania during a period of upheaval in the history of the dominion. It is remarkable how by the comparison mainly with climate statements on Germany and Switzerland statements are made concerning a climate differentiation, which methodically could perhaps have been elaborated a little more (see below). Very practical is the synopsis 2.

The following considerations could be taken into account:

a) **Thematization of the source selection**: The selection of historical sources is of necessity anthological, therefore no mention is made, for example, of the works of Johann Tröster, Lorenz Töppelt or Valentin Franck von Franckenstein. Transylvania, for example in Kronstadt, is famous for its baroque lyric poetry, which also contains statements about the history of climate etc. Therefore, it would make sense to indicate in the title already the restriction to historiographical sources, and these in selection.

b) **Source criticism**: The sources are mostly evaluated literally, but these are to be embedded in larger contexts, whether with regard to the historical contexts and their historiographical traditions, especially in the large cities of Kronstadt and Hermannstadt, but above all with regard to their content-related references. Only a few examples and comments to show what I am meaning:

- When a rain of blood is mentioned for the year 1651 in Sighisoara, this alludes to biblical horizons.
- The transitions between sermon literature and historiography were fluid in the Baroque period (cf. the multiple connotations of weather as God’s punishment).
- Miles is often active in a compilatory way, that is, he receives predecessors to a great extent. Who is the addressee of the respective chronicle?
- It is a big difference in terms of source criticism whether someone writes a diary or annals etc. Of course, this cannot be proven in each individual case of spource, but it can at least be hinted at in some places. Therefore, it would be good if here and there the literature on the authors would be included to a greater extent (especially for the leading source Krauss, there are numerous recent works available). Perhaps it would
make sense to also consider Romanian research in rudimentary form.

c) **Comparison**: Are the rooms (Germany) not too wide for a comparison? A stronger narrowing could perhaps lead to a methodological sharpening, which could emphasize the goal - climate-historical internal differentiation - even more.