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Comment on nhess-2020-413

Anonymous Referee #1

Referee comment on "Social sensing of high-impact rainfall events worldwide: a benchmark comparison against manually curated impact observations" by Michelle D. Spruce et al., Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss.,
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This paper represents an original contribution on social sensing of high-impact rainfall events, data analysis disseminated by social media against a manually curated impact database created by the Met Office. The methodology, data analysis and discussion are illustrated with scientific rigor, also presenting the limitations of the study at the end. However, the limitation of the paper is the absence of a section dedicated to reviewing the literature on the subject: are there other studies on the analysis of social media data relating to high-impact rainfall events or other extreme natural events? there are also no references to risk communication according to the latest UNDRR reports. Does social media have an impact on disasters? do they have a preventive function of them? with the arrival of the pandemic, the use of social media as a communication tool - even institutional - has become increasingly impressive and decisive. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the theoretical structure of the paper; in addition to this, being a study that focuses on the perception of the impact of extreme natural events, it is also necessary to include the vast international literature on the subject of perception of risks associated with extreme natural events, with reference to the type of natural hazard analyzed in this paper. It would also be interesting to compare social sensing applied to high-impact rainfall events with other experiments on the perception of various extreme natural phenomena such as earthquakes using other similar methodologies (see the crowdsourcing detections by Bossu, 2020, for example) to further investigate the issue.