

Dear Dr. Toth,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a revised manuscript. We appreciate all the comments we have received and have made a great effort to incorporate each of them into our revision.

As suggested, the manuscript has been thoroughly reconsidered and amended to provide better clarity on both the method and data used in this analysis. In particular, more details have been added with respect to the method and data, as follows:

- The Methods section has been expanded to include more specific information on the SOMs method (with equations), as have the error measures and Davies-Bouldin index.
- Data sources have been appropriately cited, and a list of previous papers produced using the same data has been provided. The timeline of the study, interpretation of the placement of the cities on the maps, and the necessary assumption of flood protection level have been further discussed.

All points recommended by the reviewers and editor have been systematically addressed and responded to. Please see the 'response to reviewer' documents submitted concurrently for a detailed response to each query about the method and/or data. We hope the information added to the Data and Methods sections, as well as further detail in the Introduction and Conclusion, will remove any further confusion regarding the pertinence of the method and validity of the data in this study.

The vocabulary used in the manuscript has been checked and updated. The term 'spatiotemporal' has been removed, and other terms mentioned by reviewer 1 have also been revised. The references have been updated as suggested.

A few paragraphs have been added to the end of the introduction to explicitly describe what types of 'patterns' and 'clusters' are expected to be found in this study and why they are of interest. This is also reiterated at the beginning of the Discussion. The conclusion has been expanded to include more discussion of shortcomings of this analysis, and areas that could be improved in future studies.

We hope you find this revised manuscript much improved.

Kind regards,

Stephanie Clark