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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 59563

Title: Les JOJ de Dakar 2026 : Decolonisation de l Idealisme Olympique et Emergence d une nouvelle rationalite manageriale,

Recommendation:
Accept after minor revision

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

Reviewer Name: Dr. Abdul Haseeb Mir

Detailed Reviewer's Report

This manuscript presents a sophisticated, transdisciplinary epistemological and socio-economic critique of the legacy framework for the upcoming Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games (YOG)—the first International Olympic Committee (IOC) mega-event hosted on African soil. The author interrogates how the Senegalese hosting model challenges hegemonic, Eurocentric Olympic paradigms historically reliant on infrastructure hypertrophy, real estate speculation, and short-term financial metrics.

Using a critical constructivist methodology combining document analysis (IOC Agendas 2020/2020+5, Dakar 2026 Gender Action Plan, Dakar Learning Academy curricula), spatial analysis across a decentralized territorial triptych (Dakar, Diamniadio, and Saly), and conceptual mathematical modeling, the paper frames Dakar 2026 as an act of epistemic subversion.

Key analytical and theoretical contributions include:

- **Deconstructive Decolonial Lens:** Grounding the critique in decolonial theory (Quijano, Mignolo, Dussel) and capability theory (Sen), demonstrating how "coloniality of power and knowledge" has historically relegated the Global South to a passive consumer of Western event specifications.
- **Sobriety and Infrastructure Rehabilitation:** Contrasting Western "white elephant" projects with Senegal's focus on material sobriety, such as refurbishing existing community assets (e.g., Stade Iba Mar Diop and Tour de l'Œuf) to avoid sovereign debt spirals.

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- **Decentralized Spatial Triptych:** Demonstrating how dividing events between Dakar (historical memory/populous urban core), Diamniadio (technological hub), and Saly (blue economy/coastal eco-tourism) creates a balanced regional development model.
- **Human Capital & Knowledge Sedimentation:** Analyzing the *Dakar Learning Academy* (training over 400 African managers) and formulating a mathematical *Global Intangible Legacy Index* (I_{HIG}) to quantify human capital retention, skill transferability, and local cognitive sovereignty.
- **Vernacular Eco-Responsibility and Cultural Inversion:** Elevating local concepts—such as West African *Zero Waste* community recycling and the philosophical ethics of *Teranga* (hospitality)—from mere folkloric branding to operational management frameworks that co-create contemporary Olympic doctrine.

The paper offers a well-argued, innovative contribution to sports sociology, decolonial studies, and event management economics.

Key Strengths

1. **Rigorous Theoretical Grounding:** The integration of decolonial epistemology with political economy and urban sociology effectively exposes the structural flaws of applying Western mega-event evaluation metrics to the Global South.
2. **Innovative Conceptual Modeling:** Formulating the *Global Intangible Legacy Index* (I_{HIG}) mathematically connects qualitative human capital development (C_{hc}), skill transferability (T_{tr}), material investment minimization (I_{mat}), and lococentric sovereignty (S_{loc}).
3. **Nuanced Critical Discussion:** Section 6 maintains scientific objectivity by addressing dialectical risks, such as political instrumentalization by state elites, gentrification pressures in Diamniadio, and potential brain drain if the local economy fails to absorb newly trained managers.

Recommendations for Improvement

While the manuscript is scholarly and well-written, the author should address the following minor points prior to final publication:

1. **Clean Up Character Encoding and Text Artifacts:**

The manuscript contains minor character encoding errors and draft artifacts:

- Line 4: Fix character corruption in the main title (e.g., $\hat{E}$ $d^{\prime}$ $\rightarrow$ et d'une).
- Lines 303–308: Remove raw bracketed figure placeholding blocks (e.g., [Épistemologie des Slogans Olympiques]) and ensure narrative text flows smoothly around Figure 2.

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2. **Expand on the Empirical Parameters of the I_{HIG} Formula:**

In Section 4, the author proposes the mathematical formula for the *Global Intangible Legacy Index*:

$$I_{HIG} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(\frac{C_{hc} \times T_{tr}}{I_{mat}} \right) \times \ln(S_{loc})$$

To enhance operational utility, add 2–3 clarifying sentences explaining how T_{tr} (Transferability Rate) and S_{loc} (Lococentric Sovereignty Coefficient) are scored or normalized on empirical rating scales.

3. **Clarify Digital Sovereignty Partnerships:**

In Section 4 (Technological Sovereignty in Diamniadio), the text mentions Dakar-based start-ups creating custom ticketing and transport algorithms. Briefly clarify how these local software architectures interface with the IOC's mandatory global commercial technology sponsors.

4. **Standardize Reference Citation Guidelines:**

Ensure all reference entries in the References section conform strictly to standard APA 7th Edition guidelines, verifying uniform formatting for institutional reports (COJOJ, CIO) and book publisher details.

Final Evaluation and Verdict

This manuscript delivers an exceptional, critical evaluation of the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games, successfully demonstrating how an African host nation transforms from a passive recipient of international specifications into an active co-creator of global sports doctrine. The theoretical framework is rigorous, the mathematical modeling is creative, and the socio-economic insights are profound.

The manuscript is **accepted with minor revisions**. Fixing title character encodings, explaining the scoring bounds of the legacy index variables, and standardizing reference citations will render the paper fully ready for publication

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