

Reviewer: 3

Comments to the Author

The authors should be commended for sharing the findings of their study of their work relevant to the pandemic.

Regrettably, however, there are several major shortcomings of the paper.

The method section is not elaborated upon. What was the data that was collected and used? Which period--the dates--did the dataset capture?

We have made several clarifications in the article to attempt to address this on page 5 & 6, such as clarifying the time period and adding an explanation of the extrapolation method used.

The dataset came from the mobile telco, which had already "packaged" such data into a service it called Crowd Insights. Given the strict data protection law in Sweden, one can only surmise that the Crowd Insights service must be already compliant with the DP law. If so, it is hard to understand where the privacy concern and reputational risk arises.

While the solution is indeed compliant with applicable DP law (GDPR & ePrivacy), we were still concerned that if the public did not understand how the solution works and how the data has been used, it could affect the trust in the data and in worst case also create negative sentiment towards it. This was our perceived risk and we mitigated it by being transparent and proactive in our communication of the collaboration.

Further, rights such as privacy may be restricted in an emergency (based on Art. 52(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union) although it is clear now that it is not necessary to go that far.

This reviewer has seen a demo of the use of such "data exhaust" data by Nokia back in 2010. It had been trialled for traffic in the Bay Area of San Francisco but it was found that when information of a jam was given to motorists, they avoided that area (which cleared up the jam) but then the alternate route then jammed up. It was a solution in search of a problem.

While not quite in that category, it is not quite clear what the current study found that is novel and of wider interest.

We are convinced that more countries experienced the same challenges to quantify the overall adherence to mobility restrictions during this pandemic, and therefore would be very interested in this work.