Guillermo Barrios del Valle <gbv@ier.unam.mx>

Inviting you to review for Journal of Building Engineering

1 message

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Reply-To: Journal of Building Engineering <support@elsevier.com>
To: Guillermo Barrios del Valle <gbv@ier.unam.mx>

Manuscript Number: **JBE-D-24-02214**

How are Brazilian Higher Education Buildings conditioned? Understanding the scenario for enhanced benchmarking accuracy

Marina Garcia; Roberta Vieira Gonçalves de Souza; Ilka Afonso Reis; Isabela Catarina Fernandes Oliveira

Dear Dr Barrios del Valle,

I would like to invite you to review the above referenced manuscript submitted by Dr. Marina Garcia. I believe your expertise is a great fit for this manuscript and I would value your input. You can read the manuscript abstract at the bottom of this email.

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Peer review - and reviewers - are at the heart of the academic publishing process and so I thank you in advance for your contribution and time.

Kind regards,

Chenqiu Du

Associate Editor

Journal of Building Engineering

Abstract:

Recent Brazilian energy benchmarking system for existing buildings includes artificially conditioned Higher Education Buildings (HEBs), not encompassing naturally ventilated institutions. Comparing buildings with distinct conditioning modes could lead to misinterpretation of efficiency levels. The aim of the paper is to present a pioneer survey on Brazilian HEBs conditioning modes, including investigation on the thermal experience of users. An online survey with questions about existing conditioning modes and thermal experiences (thermal sensation, preference and acceptability) for summer and winter periods addressed by space use, obtained 600 valid responses from all Brazilian climatic zones for both public and private HEBs. Results indicated that air-conditioning adoption varied across space uses and institution types, being more prevalent in private (70%) than in public institutions (30%). Regarding space uses, laboratories in private institutions presented higher presence of air-conditioning (>80%) and lower discomfort levels in summer (TSV from -0.4 to +1.1), and naturally ventilated classrooms in both institution types presented higher levels of thermal discomfort (TSV from +1.8 to +2.5), representing more than 60% of classrooms in public HEBs. Users indicated thermal preference for cool spaces, as no change was indicated for most winter situations while cooler spaces were requested for summer. Lower levels of thermal acceptability were presented in almost all cases for public institutions, where classrooms presented thermal acceptability levels below 40% during summer. Given the diverse conditioning methods found in Brazilian HEBs and their space usage, authors strongly advocate for energy benchmarking systems to incorporate distinct categories for both artificially conditioned and naturally ventilated HEBs. It would also be advisable to include thermal comfort performance indicators in the benchmarking regardless of the conditioning mode, which could better support the comparison of effective energy efficiency of HEBs.

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