3. Personal Statement to address the concern by reviewer and editor

I confirm that this research is original, not relying on the previous works published. I did my utmost to address the raised concerns and provided detailed evidence and comparison. I have uploaded my Python codes and demo data to GitHub.

I attached the link to my initial proposal draft as it exactly was in the last modified version on December 29, 2014 (see file “properties” -> “detail” -> “origin”, Date last saved: 12/29/2014 10:44). In my proposal, my dissertation would have included 3 chapters, first on cropland abandonment, second on migration, third on feedbacks between the first two themes as naturally designed. I am the person performing and being responsible for the entire research along this thread. After coordination with other involved collaborators, I adapted to seek alternative topics in order not to step on each other’s toes during the collaboration and purely for the good of maintaining a benign collaboration. As such, my eventual last chapter, focusing on income inequality, was different from what was proposed. I, with my PhD adviser, was involved in all the previous works, and I assure that we tried the best to minimize overlaps among the different topics and have not detected any serious duplications of works.

The paper (RURAL) mostly applied this model and focused on household resilience and social network, less comparable to this research on ABM per se. In the JASSS paper, I was excluded from coding for their ABM with NetLogo, thus unable to build my own ABM-CALM upon it. But I substantially contributed to *designing* the methodological parts of ABM on empirical knowledge vs. bounded rationality, *designing* the policy scenario tests, *synthesizing* model outputs, presenting figures / tables, and paper writing and revising. For instance, among many others, I wrote the part of limitations about validation and responded to the critical challenges by reviewers on validation (Section 4.4 in JASSS); I designed the logic on what to present and how to present outputs of 50 simulations on spatial maps (Fig. 6 in JASSS); I wrote the fundamental python codes for compiling thousands of output numbers and displaying the nonlinear trends (Fig. 5, 7-9, 12); I edited the writing for the entire manuscript, checking the logics to my best knowledge for those I was seriously involved. This may explain that the style of paper writing and the logic of result presenting reads a heritage of my endeavors, potentially raising confusions for the similarity and/or the differences contributed by coauthors in this research but not in the previous works.

But all these statements lead to how our current research can significantly add value to the previous works and secure my confidence in defending the originality of this research. Please let me know if you have further questions or concerns.

Dissertation:

<https://www.proquest.com/openview/cf7ea4a23b9daf256f2448658f09f207/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750>

Dissertation proposal (Doctoral Proposal - 20141226.docx) & Python codes:

<https://github.com/qzgeog/abmcalm.git>

Sincerely,

A picture containing text

Description automatically generated