Our policy on simulation papers is that we require a validation component using real-world data. It is not enough to set initial model parameters based on real-world observed data or that a cross-validation algorithm be used for the simulated data at hand. There should be both a model development data set and a validation dataset using real-world data. The model should have good fit to the validation dataset. The validation dataset may be historical data which is post-dicted by the model or it may be a cross-sectional hold-out dataset.

Although this may or may not apply to your paper, with very rare exceptions we do not publish literature reviews or conceptual frameworks without the type of validated empirical analysis described above.

We do not discern an adequate validation component to your study. We do not publish conceptual models emerging from simulations without grounded validation.

I understand that many simulation articles are not designed in this manner but rather show the results flowing from alternate assumptions about relationships and alternate starting points and/or thresholds for the data. If this is your design, which I perceive it to be, I encourage you to submit to a journal on simulation or mathematical modeling. I am not retaining your files and you are free to submit to another journal.

Sincerely,

Dave Garson