



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Resource-based view of city quality: Scales development and validation

João M. S. Carvalho ✉, Ricardo V. Costa, Sandra Marnoto, José Carvalho Vieira, Célio A. A. Sousa

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## Abstract

As the urban world population grows steadily, cities have become the main habitat for human beings. Against this backdrop, city quality or the level of development of the city's habitat that ensures the satisfaction of objective and subjective human needs become a matter of growing interest and concern for academics, policy makers, and citizens. Building on a resource-based view of city quality, the aim of this paper is twofold. First, it proposes and validates scales for six city sub-habitats: political, economic, social, natural, artificial, and technological. Second, it tests a model and the underlying hypothesis about the ranking of those sub-habitats and of the perceived controversy regarding decision making upon them. For those purposes, a survey of 768 city inhabitants was conducted in Portugal to measure city quality and their sub-habitats. Both the predicted ranking of importance of the sub-habitats and the perceived ranking of controversy were empirically validated. The results constitute a novel and important contribution to understand city quality and its sub-habitats, whose conceptual power relies on hierarchized factors linked to citizens' happiness and to the level of controversy of the solutions.

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