

Interactive comment on “Droughts in Bern and in Rouen from the 14th to the beginning of the 18th century derived from documentary evidence” by C. Camenisch and M. Salvisberg

Anonymous Referee #1

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Camenisch and Salvisberg present a new documentary-based comparison of droughts in Bern and Rouen from the 14th century to the 18th century. This effort is worth to publish in itself although the article suffers from a number of deficiencies. As I still think that the article is worth to publish, I will only highlight my points of criticism:

- 1) The authors are missing a number of recent important studies regarding historical droughts in Europe. While they are pretty well aware of the research in historical climatology, they are missing works in other fields of high-resolution palaeoclimate science.
- 2) I am lacking a quantitative comparison between the new documentary-based drought reconstructions and the tree-ring based Old World Drought Atlas. Without

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such a quantitative comparison it is very hard – or even impossible – to really know the nature of the similarities and disagreements.

3) Several of the figures are totally unreadable (and unpublishable). For example, the years are overlapping with each other so it cannot be read: much longer increments (say, 25 years) are needed for a clearer visualization. I also recommend the authors to look at articles in Climate of the Past for getting inspiration how to improve the graphs.

Minor comments: Line 7: Droughts can also be temperature-driven without a decrease in precipitation. I also would consider it an overstatement that droughts belong to the most dangerous natural hazards. Lines 40–42: Add citations to Seftigen et al. 2017, Helama et al. (2009) and Ljungqvist et al. (2019, ERL) here.

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