Residents' perceptions of the negative impacts of the Copa América de Fútbol in Chile: pre- and post-event comparison

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Abstract: The aim of this paper is to compare residents' perceptions of the negative impacts of hosting the Copa América de Fútbol (CAF) before and after the event in Chile. The perceptions of the residents of two host cities (Concepción and Viña del Mar) were consulted at two times: one month before the celebration of the event and one month after the conclusion of the event. An initial scale of 16 items classified in the following four areas was used: social impacts (six items), political and administrative impacts (three items), environmental and socio-cultural impacts (five items) and economic impacts (two items). The results showed that the residents of the two host cities who were consulted rated the impacts more negatively before the event than after it. This change in the perceptions of the residents of the two cities was more pronounced in the economic, social and socio-cultural and environmental impacts, while it was not as prominent in the political and administrative impacts. On the other hand, the residents of Viña del Mar more strongly highlighted the negative impacts both before and after the CAF.

Key words: residents' perception, sport event, negative impacts, scale development.

Introduction
The evaluation of the social impact of a sporting event is essential to knowing how its celebration affects the quality of life of the residents. The aim is to discover which aspects have positive impacts and which have negative impacts in order to try to maximize the benefits and minimize the costs for the resident population. In this sense, according to Vanclay (2003), identifying impacts early enough can, on the one hand, contribute to making better decisions about how to proceed and, on the other hand, develop actions aimed at minimizing the damages and maximizing the benefits of a specific planned activity or intervention, such as a sporting event. According to Burdge (2003), public participation and social impact assessments work together, as one is in charge of publicly consulting on a given proposal or intervention and the other is in charge of knowing how that proposal will change the lives of individuals and the affected community.

When defining the social impact, it should be noted that various contributions have been made with respect to tourism and sociology (e.g., Mathieson & Wall, 1982; Olsen & Merwin, 1977). However, Parra, Calabuig, Núñez and Crespo (2017) point out that the social impacts of sporting events can be defined as the changes in the quality of life of residents as a result of hosting a sporting event in their locality.

In general, studies related to the analysis of residents' perceptions or the social impacts of sporting events are based mainly on research on the social impacts associated with tourism (Fredline, Jago, and Deery, 2003). For this reason, the two research areas similarly share the methods, data collection processes and theories that serve as a reference for explaining the results of these studies (Deery and Jago, 2010). Most of the work attempts to explain the changes in residents' perceptions according to the characteristics of the event, the socio-economic context and the impacts on citizens' quality of life. To try to understand why residents perceive the impacts associated with sporting events differently, there are two theories: the theory of social exchange and the theory of social representations.

According to Ap (1992), the theory of social exchange is a sociological theory that tries to understand the exchange of resources between individuals and groups in a series of interactions. Thus, according to this theory, the residents of a locality participate in the exchanges produced by a sports event through the ownership of businesses or works related to the sector, sharing the resources of the host community and the new resources developed by the celebration of the event with visitors (Fredline, 2005). The assessment of the costs and benefits of these exchanges and their overall perception will then lead to an internal cost-benefit analysis of the phenomenon that is analysed. Thus, if residents feel that the benefits of the event outweigh the costs, they will show a positive attitude towards the event and may engage in supportive behaviours (Fredline, 2005). However, if they perceive that the costs outweigh the benefits, they will develop negative attitudes towards the activity,
which may lead to the withdrawal of their support for the celebration of the event due to the abandonment of the terms of trade. In this sense, Gursoy and Kendall (2006) point out that the theory of social exchange establishes that residents are willing to participate in the exchange if they consider that they are going to receive benefits from it that do not imply having to assume intolerable costs.

With regard to the theory of social representations, Fredline and Faulkner (2000) point out that representations are the tools that people use to try to understand the events of the world around them based on past experiences and previous knowledge. According to Fredline (2005), residents have a series of previous representations of events that define their perceptions of the impacts that are generated, and these representations are configured from three sources of information: direct experiences, social interactions and other factors such as the media. Moreover, these representations are difficult to change because they form a frame of reference through which new information is interpreted (Fredline, 2005).

There are several contributions that analyse residents’ perceptions of the impacts associated with sporting events at different times of the year. However, some studies carry out comparisons at two points in time and other studies include further consultations with the aim of monitoring the evolution of the social impact of these events. Among the works that analyse the perceptions before and after the events, we can highlight the contributions of Kim, Gursoy, and Lee (2006), Balduck, Maes, and Buelens (2011), Lorde, Greenidge, and Devonish (2011), Kaplanidou et al. (2013) and Ma, Ma, Wu, and Rotherham (2013). Other works focus on analysing perceptions before and during the event (e.g., Waitt, 2003), during and after the event (Gursoy, Chi, Ai, and Chen, 2011; Kim and Petrick, 2005) and even in the bidding phase of the event at two different times (Añó, Calabuig, Ayora, Duclos, & Parra, 2013; 2014). On the other hand, there are studies that assess residents' perceptions at three or more different times. For example, they compare perceptions before, during and after the event (e.g., Karadakis and Kaplanidou, 2012) or before and after the event at different times (e.g., Casimir and Añó, 2006; Guala and Turco, 2009; Mihalik and Simonetta, 1999; Ritchie and Lyons, 1987, 1990; Twynam and Johnston, 2004).

In most of these manuscripts, changes in residents' perceptions have been observed that depend on when the consultation was carried out. Some have found that the expectations generated around the possible positive impacts or benefits associated with sporting events were higher in the first consultations that were held before or during the event than after the event (Kim and Petrick, 2005; Lorde et al., 2011; Ma et al., 2013).

However, if we focus our interest on the evolution of negative impacts, we can see that there is no consensus on the evolution of these impacts, since some studies show that residents tend to minimize negative impacts once the event is over (Kim et al., 2006; Lorde et al., 2011), while others point to the inverse trend in some indicators of negative impacts (Gursoy et al., 2011; Kim & Petrick, 2005; Lee et al., 2013; Ma & Rotherham, 2015). For example, in Kim and Petrick's (2005) study, two surveys were conducted: one during the 2002 World Cup in Korea and Japan and the other three months after the event ended. The results of the comparison of the two consultations showed an increase in the average scores of the negative economic outlook dimensions and a decrease in public enthusiasm and interest after three months. Also, Kim et al. (2006), using the same event, found that before the event, residents had high expectations regarding the economic and cultural benefits, while after the event, it was observed that residents perceived the benefits less positively, especially those of an economic nature. For negative impacts such as increased traffic, pollution, social problems (crime, vandalism) or price increases, they were perceived with a less negative trend than before the event.

The results of the study by Lorde et al. (2011) on the perceptions of Barbados’ residents before and after the 2007 Cricket World Cup showed in the post-event consultation a slight drop in the perceptions of the positive impacts (economic benefits, cultural exchange and natural resources), although this was more pronounced with negative impacts (traffic, pollution, price increases, social problems and costs). In this paper, the authors found that before the event, citizens felt that the costs of the event would outweigh the benefits, while after it was held, they were against it.

Not all the contributions in the literature on the evolution of the social impacts of sporting events have focused interest on the cities hosting the event. Such is the case of the studies of Karadakis and Kaplanidou (2012) on the Vancouver Olympic Games in Canada (2010) or that of Chen and Tian (2015) on the Beijing Olympic Games (2008). For example, the study of Karadakis and Kaplanidou compares the perceptions of the Winter Olympic Games’ legacies before, during and after the event in two different cities: Vancouver, the host city, and Ottawa, another city in the country that did not host the event. In this study, the authors noted that the overall assessment of the economic, tourism, environmental and knowledge development legacies was higher for Ottawa residents, an aspect that the researchers themselves explained by the fact that residents of the host city may be more aware or more concerned about the possible negative impacts associated with holding the event. In this way, the direct contact of the citizens of Vancouver with the event may explain why the positive assessment of these legacies is less pronounced. Chen and Tian's (2015) study of the Beijing Olympics compares residents’ perceptions between the cities of Beijing and Qingdao. These authors consulted the residents of the two cities four years after the Olympic Games about their perceptions of the possible positive and negative impacts of hosting the event. They found that residents felt that the benefits outweighed the costs and the intangible impacts outweighed the economic interests. They also found differences in citizens' perceptions of the city in which they
lived, with the residents of Beijing taking a greater interest in the environmental aspects, while those of Qingdao focused their interest on the image-related aspects.

Also, the manuscript of Kaplanidou (2012) compares the perception of the residents of four cities hosting the Olympic Games (Atlanta, Sydney, Athens and Beijing) 2, 6, 10 and 14 years after the event. In this study, the perception of citizens on the importance of the legacy of this mega event for the improvement of the quality of life was analysed. According to these authors, the results of the study showed that the residents of Atlanta and Sydney tended to estimate more positively the legacies associated with emotions and the proportion of spaces for socialization, while the residents of Beijing and Athens considered tangible legacies as the most important for improving their quality of life.

Thus, the objective of this paper is to compare residents’ perceptions of the negative impacts of hosting the Copa América de Fútbol (CAF), before and after the event, in two cities in Chile.

Materials and method

Participants

This study interviewed residents of two CAF host cities (Concepción and Viña del Mar) one month before and one month after the event. The event was held between 11 June and 4 July 2015. For the study, 1222 valid surveys were collected in Concepción and 582 in Viña del Mar. The distribution of the sample by city, time of consultation, gender and age variables is shown in Table 1. A chi-square test and a t-test for independent samples were applied to observe if there were statistically significant differences between the two samples according to gender \( \left[ \chi^2 (1)=3.61; p>.05 \right] \) and age \( \left[ t(1802) = 6.05; p=<.001 \right] \).

Table 1. Socio-demographic characteristics of the sample consulted according to the time and city.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Concepción (N=1222)</th>
<th>Viña del Mar (N=582)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pre (N=748)</td>
<td>Post (N=476)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>M (SD)</td>
<td>M (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29.43 (13.96)</td>
<td>26.33 (15.03)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Male Female</td>
<td>Male Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>57.49% 42.51%</td>
<td>48.90% 51.10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Procedure

The measuring instrument was composed of 16 items elaborated from the review of the literature (Núñez, Calabuig, Añó, & Parra, 2014; Parra, Aguado, & Núñez, 2015) and followed the suggestions of experts in this area. These indicators included possible negative impacts associated with the holding of sporting events. A five-point Likert-type scale was used in which 1 indicated strongly disagree and 5 indicated strongly agree.

For the distribution and collection of the questionnaires, a team of interviewers were trained in a seminar on the general aspects of social research and sports management. The objective and purpose of the study were also explained, as well as the characteristics of the items and questions that made up the questionnaire.

Due to the absence of an accurate sampling frame, a non-probabilistic sampling method of convenience that was consistent with previous work was chosen (e.g., Gursoy & Kendall, 2006; Kim et al., 2006; Lorde et al., 2011; Prayag, Hosany Nunkoo, & Alders, 2013). As stated in Kim et al. (2006), one of the main weaknesses associated with convenience sampling is selection bias. Thus, to avoid this bias in fieldwork, interviewers were instructed to collect surveys of different population groups for the purpose of interviewing gender- and age-proportional groups of residents.

Data analysis

Data analysis was performed using SPSS 23. Descriptive statistics such as the mean, standard deviation, frequency and percentages were used for the analysis and interpretation of the results. In addition, to verify the existence of statistically significant differences \( p <.05 \) between the perceptions of the negative impacts of the CAF before and after it was held, the T-test was used for independent samples, along with the prior application of the Levene’s test of variance homogeneity. The size of the significant effect was also tested through Cohen's d.

Results

Economic impact

Table 2 shows the results for each indicator of the negative economic impacts on the sample collected before the event (pre-event) and after the event (post-event) in the two cities. In all indicators, statistically significant differences were detected \( p<.001 \) between the two consultation times, with the group of residents before the event showing the highest scores in both items. These differences were observed for both the citizens of Concepción and Viña del Mar. In the case of Viña del Mar, the average scores of the indicators showed a trend towards higher agreement with the questions than in Concepción. Therefore, before the event, the residents of the two cities thought the event could increase the prices of goods and services (Mpre Viña del Mar=4.07 and
Mpre Concepción=3.61), as well as the prices of real estate and properties (Mpre Viña del Mar=4.01 and Mpre Concepción=3.35). The Cohen d found that the size of the effect associated with the differences in the average pre- and post-event scores in the two cities was moderate in all comparisons, ranging from .36 to .57.

Table 2. Comparison of residents’ perceptions of the negative economic impacts of the Copa América de Fútbol before and after it was held.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Concepción</th>
<th>Viña del Mar</th>
<th>P value (Cohen’s d)</th>
<th>P value (Cohen’s d)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pre</td>
<td>Post</td>
<td>M (SD)</td>
<td>M (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE1 CAF raises prices of goods and</td>
<td>3.61 (1.18)</td>
<td>3.00 (1.19)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.52)</td>
<td>4.07 (1.07)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.39 (1.29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE2 Increases the price of real</td>
<td>3.35 (1.22)</td>
<td>2.91 (1.19)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.36)</td>
<td>4.01 (1.08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>estate and properties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.41 (1.25)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*** different at a statistically significant level p<.001

Political and administrative impact

The results on the perceptions of possible negative impacts at the political and administrative level were different from those of the other areas that were analysed. As can be seen in Table 3, the indicators in this area showed statistically significant differences in the average values of the IP2 and IP1 indicators among the residents of Concepción. However, among the residents of Viña del Mar, the only statistically significant differences (p<.01) were observed for the IP2 indicator. The values associated with the effect size ranged from .25 to .32, thus indicating a small effect.

The average scores showed a neutral trend among the citizens of the two municipalities, leaning towards disagreement in the post-event consultation held in Concepción. For example, residents of Concepción rated the indicators related to the increase in illegal activities and corruption in the country as a neutral average of 2.73. Only the indicator related to the increase in illegal activities showed a slight tendency towards agreement in the case of the citizens of Viña del Mar in the consultation prior to the event (Mpre=3.36).

Table 3. Comparison of residents’ perceptions of the negative political and administrative impacts of the Copa América before and after the event.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Concepción</th>
<th>Viña del Mar</th>
<th>P value (Cohen’s d)</th>
<th>P value (Cohen’s d)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pre</td>
<td>Post</td>
<td>M (SD)</td>
<td>M (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP1 Increases citizens’ mistrust</td>
<td>2.95 (1.19)</td>
<td>2.90 (1.16)</td>
<td>.47</td>
<td>3.12 (1.29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of institutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.03 (1.22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP2 Increases illegal activities</td>
<td>3.11 (1.21)</td>
<td>2.73 (1.22)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.32)</td>
<td>3.36 (1.24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the country</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.05 (1.27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP3 Increases corruption in the</td>
<td>3.14 (1.28)</td>
<td>2.73 (1.25)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.32)</td>
<td>3.14 (1.35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>country</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.14 (1.33)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*** different at a statistically significant level p<.001 * p<.01

Social impact

Along the same lines as the negative economic impacts, the perception of the residents of the two cities experienced changes in the average scores on all the indicators at a statistically significant level (p<.001). Table 4 shows that the effect size was moderate, ranging from .39 to .52 for the comparisons between the Concepción samples and from .34 to .66 for the comparisons for the Viña del Mar samples.

With respect to average scores, in the pre-event consultation, they pointed to a trend towards agreement on all indicators among the residents of the two cities, although more markedly among the citizens consulted in Viña del Mar. The indicators that residents perceived most prominently before the event were those related to the increase in traffic and congestion problems and the increase in noise. However, the residents of Viña del Mar also showed a tendency towards agreement on the rest of the items: the alteration of daily life, the distortion of the normal functioning of the city and the restrictions on access to the area in which the event is held.

However, the subsequent consultation showed a significant reduction in the average scores of all indicators, indicating a neutral trend in most of them. For example, this trend can be observed among residents of the two cities for the indicators IS3, IS4, IS5 and IS6, as the average scores range from 2.89 to 3.11, which are close to the neutral value of the scale (3).
Table 4. Comparison of residents’ perceptions of the negative social impacts of the Copa América de Fútbol before and after it was held.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Pre</th>
<th>Post</th>
<th>P value (Cohen’s d)</th>
<th>Pre</th>
<th>Post</th>
<th>P value (Cohen’s d)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Negative social impact</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS1</td>
<td>3.85 (1.13)</td>
<td>3.37 (1.21)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.41)</td>
<td>4.09 (1.10)</td>
<td>3.69 (1.26)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.34)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS2</td>
<td>3.80 (1.15)</td>
<td>3.27 (1.20)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.45)</td>
<td>3.98 (1.16)</td>
<td>3.47 (1.27)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS3</td>
<td>3.52 (1.17)</td>
<td>2.98 (1.19)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.46)</td>
<td>3.77 (1.25)</td>
<td>3.11 (1.29)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS4</td>
<td>3.50 (1.17)</td>
<td>2.89 (1.18)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.52)</td>
<td>3.77 (1.19)</td>
<td>3.06 (1.29)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS5</td>
<td>3.43 (1.20)</td>
<td>2.97 (1.18)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.39)</td>
<td>3.86 (1.16)</td>
<td>3.08 (1.31)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS6</td>
<td>3.38 (1.19)</td>
<td>2.91 (1.20)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.39)</td>
<td>3.74 (1.21)</td>
<td>3.05 (1.28)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.55)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Socio-cultural and environmental impact**

Table 5 shows the results of the indicators corresponding to the residents’ perceptions of the socio-cultural and environmental impacts before and after the CAF. The results show a similar trend to the other dimensions for the two cities, with the residents of Viña del Mar showing a more prominent trend towards agreement in the two consultations. Statistically significant differences (p<.001) were observed between the mean scores of the two consultations between the residents interviewed in the two cities. The effect size was moderate in most comparisons, ranging from .50 to .53 for the mean value of the comparisons between the Concepción samples and from .41 to .77 for the Viña del Mar samples.

The indicator that most stands out among the residents of the two cities is that related to the increase in the volume of waste in the area where the event was held (Mpre Concepción=3.72; Mpre Viña del Mar=4.31), with an important reduction in the average score in the post-event consultation (Mpost Concepción=3.07; Mpost Viña del Mar=3.41). However, the post-event consultation showed a trend towards agreement on most of the indicators in this area. However, in the case of Concepción, the mean scores of all the indicators showed a trend close to the neutral value of the scale, ranging from 2.81 to 3.07. This trend showed a slight inclination towards agreement in the perception of the residents of Viña del Mar in the post-CAF consultation.

Table 5. Comparison of residents’ perceptions of the negative socio-cultural and environmental impacts of the Copa América before and after the event.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Pre</th>
<th>Post</th>
<th>P value (Cohen’s d)</th>
<th>Pre</th>
<th>Post</th>
<th>P value (Cohen’s d)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Socio-cultural and environmental impact</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISC- M1 Encourages inappropriate behaviour (drug use, alcohol, prostitution...)</td>
<td>3.53 (1.15)</td>
<td>2.91 (1.23)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.53)</td>
<td>3.83 (1.21)</td>
<td>3.29 (1.32)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISC- M2 Increases levels of crime and vandalism</td>
<td>3.58 (1.11)</td>
<td>2.97 (1.21)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.53)</td>
<td>3.98 (1.21)</td>
<td>3.23 (1.30)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISC- M3 Causes damage to the environment and natural areas</td>
<td>3.45 (1.24)</td>
<td>2.81 (1.20)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.52)</td>
<td>3.82 (1.13)</td>
<td>3.25 (1.32)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISC- M4 Increases pollution in the city</td>
<td>3.46 (1.22)</td>
<td>2.86 (1.20)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.50)</td>
<td>3.75 (1.21)</td>
<td>3.24 (1.30)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISC- M5 Increases the volume of waste in the area</td>
<td>3.72 (1.21)</td>
<td>3.07 (1.21)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.54)</td>
<td>4.31 (1.05)</td>
<td>3.41 (1.26)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*** (.77)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discussion**

In this study, we analysed the evolution of the perceptions of the residents of two CAF host cities held in Chile. In the area of research on the social impacts of sports events, most studies have focused on specific consultations, mainly after the event is over (e.g., Ahó, Calabuig, & Parra, 2012; Parra, Ahó, Calabuig, & Ayora, 2016; Parra, Calabuig, & Núñez, 2014; Parra, González-García, Ahó, & Ayora, 2016). Similarly, greater interest
has been placed on the positive impacts, and the negative impacts or costs associated with these events have been analysed in a one-dimensional construct.

Thus, this paper found that residents' perceptions change according to when they are analysed. The residents of the two cities that were consulted perceived the impacts before and after the CAF differently. The results observed in this study show a similar trend to those observed in previous studies in this area of research (e.g., Kim et al., 2006; Lorde et al., 2011).

In general, a higher rating was observed for all the indicators consulted prior to the event. As some work in this area points out, the expectations of both positive and negative impacts are often higher before the event than after it is over (Kim et al., 2006; Lorde et al., 2011). This could explain the changes observed in residents' perceptions. If we analyse the indicators by dimension, we find that those related to economic impacts, social impacts and socio-cultural and environmental impacts are those that experienced the most marked change in residents' perception. On the other hand, the items related to political and administrative management did not experience such significant changes as those of the other dimensions, thus showing a tendency towards neutrality or a certain indifference of the residents on these aspects. The residents of Viña del Mar perceived that the event had entailed economic costs for the residents in terms of increased prices of goods and services, as well as the prices of real estate and properties in the city. The citizens of Concepción that were surveyed only highlighted these costs in the consultation prior to the CAF. The increase in prices is one of the main negative aspects that can influence the overall assessment of sporting events, which can generate an unfavourable social exchange for citizens. In other studies, these aspects have also been noted by residents with a similar tendency in pre-event consultations (Gursoy et al., 2011; Lee et al., 2013; Lorde et al., 2011).

On the other hand, the residents of the two cities did not consider that the celebration had generated negative political and administrative impacts. This assessment was observed in both the pre- and post-CAF consultations. Therefore, citizens did not perceive the event as increasing the distrust of institutions, illegal activities and corruption in the country. This type of impact has not been consulted in previous studies, except in some works that analyse the importance of trust in the government and in the organizers as background to the perception of the impacts associated with the events (Gursoy, Yolal, Ribeiro, & Netto, 2016; Ouyang, Gursoy, & Sharma, 2017).

The same trend was observed in social impacts as in economic impacts. Prior to the CAF, the residents interviewed in the two cities were of the opinion that this type of impact would negatively affect the quality of life of the citizens. However, in the subsequent consultation, only the residents of Viña del Mar highlighted the increase in traffic and noise problems as negative aspects of CAF. In other studies, the impacts associated with increased traffic and congestion have also been highlighted negatively both before and after the event, although with a less prominent trend in the subsequent consultation (Kim et al., 2006; Lorde et al., 2011). However, in other studies, these aspects have not been perceived as negative by the local community (Lee et al., 2013; Ma et al., 2013; Ma & Rotherham, 2015; Oshimi, Harada, & Fukuhara, 2017).

With regard to the socio-cultural and environmental impacts, we note that in the consultation prior to the CAF, the residents of the two cities thought that hosting the event would have a negative impact on these aspects. However, in the subsequent consultation, the citizens of the two cities did not consider these aspects as having been natively impacted. Only the residents consulted in Viña del Mar tended towards agreement on the increase in the volume of waste. This change in perceptions coincides with what has been observed in economic and social indicators. Previous studies have shown that aspects related to increased inappropriate behaviours or vandalism and crime were not highlighted as negative impacts in any consultation (Gursoy et al., 2011; Kim et al., 2006; Lee et al., 2013; Lorde et al., 2011). With regard to environmental aspects (pollution, environmental damage, and waste volume), some works indicate that residents did not believe that the events had negative impacts (Gursoy et al., 2011; Ma et al., 2013; Ma & Rotherham, 2015), while other works show the inverse trend in aspects such as increased pollution (Kim et al., 2006; Lorde et al., 2011).

This study shows that it is important to examine perceptions before and after the event as it may mean a clearer analysis of the change in the social impacts. As the theory of social exchange points out, community support is critical to the success of a major sporting event. However, in most cases, communities are not consulted prior to submitting bids and are excluded from most decisions regarding the organization of such sporting events (Gursoy et al., 2016). Decisions about hosting are usually made by a small group of politicians, often with authoritarian decision-making processes and without any transparency, with interests that do not usually coincide with those of the local population.

Conclusions

The residents of the two host cities that were consulted rated the impacts before the event more negatively rather than after it. This change in the perceptions of the residents of the two cities was more pronounced in the economic, social and socio-cultural and environmental impacts, while it was not as prominent in the political and administrative impacts. On the other hand, the residents of Viña del Mar highlighted more strongly the negative impacts both before and after the CAF.

Therefore, this work demonstrates that residents' perceptions change according to the time when the consultation is carried out, and it is necessary to hold periodic consultations to check the evolution of the social
impacts of these events. In this work, different data were collected before and after the event in order to check for temporary changes in residents' perceptions. This may imply that the changes observed are due to other factors of a socio-demographic nature. However, as stated by Gursoy et al. (2011), in order to better understand the impact of temporary effects on residents' perceptions, it would be advisable to conduct longitudinal work on a representative sample of the target population.

On the other hand, in future studies it would be advisable to incorporate more indicators on other dimensions, such as economic impacts that are related to hidden costs such as security, cleaning and maintenance costs of the facilities and infrastructure created for the event. Groups of residents with different attitudes towards the impacts of events could also be identified to define the profiles of citizens according to their willingness to support or not support the event in question.

Conflicting interests

The authors do not declare any potential conflict of interest with respect to the research, authorship and/or publication of this article.

References


