

KARLOVA UNIVERZITA V PRAZE
Fakulta sociálních věd
Institut politologických studií

Master's Thesis Assessment

AUTHOR: Tobin Hanspal

TITLE OF THE THESIS: Variability Among Determinants of Education Attainment: the Effect of Natural Resources and Institutional Quality in Sub-Saharan Africa

ASSESSED BY: Mgr. Martin Riegl, PhD.

ASSESSMENT TYPE: Opponent

1. ASSESSMENT OF THE THESIS CONTENT

ASSESSMENT CATEGORIES	MARK
Relevancy of the topic in relation to the current scientific knowledge	1
Originality of the thesis, contribution to the science subject field	1
Integrity and scale of sources and literature relevant to the subject study	1
Ability for critical appraisal of the sources	1
Standards of working with sources	2
Methodology and its relevancy to the subject study and thesis goals	1
Logic of the thesis structure	1
Ability to argue, cohesion and coherence of the argument	1
Terminology in the relevant field	1
Adhesion to the citation norm	2
Language, stylistic and formal standard of the thesis	2-3

COMMENTARY:

The structure of the thesis is a bit unique. I find a bit problematic to consider chapters of the thesis like literature review, hypotheses, theoretical approach, methodology as the main parts of the thesis. So I would highly recommend the author to change the formal structure of chapters.

Also from the formal point of view there are several weak points, especially the incidence of typing errors and misspelling is too high (even in the thesis content). In general the thesis meets the criteria required by Institute of Political Science.

The author's goal was to *explore the determinants of demand for education across households in a wide array of Sub-Saharan African countries. A primary goal of the study was to affirm that the determinants for education are heterogeneous across the region.*

The fact that author analyzed enormous dataset (from 21 Sub-Saharan African countries and more than 100 000 households) and showed his ability to do an independent research.

Tobin has demonstrated his ability to conduct an independent research and analyze enormous amount of sources. On the other side the hypothesis are a bit unclear.

For all above mentioned arguments in this review I do recommend to evaluate this thesis as very good.

2. QUESTIONS FOR THE DEFENSE

3. SUGGESTED MARK

The oponent suggest that this paper should be graded as excellent.

Date: 19/06/2012

Signature: