

Report on Bachelor Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Student:	Anna Umlaufová
Advisor:	Jaromír Baxa
Title of the thesis:	Does Foreign Aid Decrease Inequality? Evidence from the Most Recent Data.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Contribution

Anna estimates the relationship between development aid and inequality, which hasn't been much investigated so far. More specifically, she focuses on relatively recent data, reflecting changes in development aid since the late 1990s. She found that the effect is heterogeneous across countries, being somewhat positive in the Middle East in North Africa, and countries with better political institutions. On the other hand, aid increases inequality in former French colonies. These results are interesting and given the appropriate methodology relevant.

Methods

Panel data estimators are used, both static and dynamic in the spirit of Arellano-Bond. The methodology seems to be correctly applied, and the analysis of the results has been undertaken carefully. The results are not the most clear-cut as one would be hoping for, but even knowing that the effect of foreign aid on inequality isn't universal, is valuable.

Literature

The literature review does what it is supposed to do. Main literature is surveyed, and the differences in the existing results are well described. References and citations follow the standards.

Manuscript form

Simply excellent, at a very high professional level, not often seen at bachelor theses.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

Overall, Anna Umlaufová prepared her bachelor thesis at a very good professional level, well-written, with competently elaborated empirical analysis. I believe her thesis deserves an excellent grade.

Suggested questions:

- The thesis finds differences in the effects of foreign aid on inequality across countries. But: Is there any reason why the effects of aid shall be different in the former French and British colonies?

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SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	29
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	97
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	A

NAME OF THE REFEREE:

Jaromír Baxa

DATE OF EVALUATION:

May 30, 2019



Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

CONTRIBUTION: *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

Strong	Average	Weak
30	15	0

METHODS: *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

Strong	Average	Weak
30	15	0

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

Strong	Average	Weak
20	10	0

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

Strong	Average	Weak
20	10	0

Overall grading:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F