

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Dmitrii Ivantsev
Advisor:	PhDr. Radek Janhuba, M.A., Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Wage Discrimination in US Sports: Comparative Analysis

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

The thesis investigates racial wage discrimination across three of the four major American sports leagues (NBA, MLB, NFL). I have consulted the study extensively during its writing and all substantial comments were addressed before the thesis was finalized. Hence, I only provide the evaluation and minor comments. The student spent substantial time on the thesis.

Contribution

The thesis builds on a body of previous literature by including multiple leagues and thus applying a consistent framework to analyze the leagues in the same time period and using the same methodology. The fact that the author does not find evidence of racial wage discrimination in any of the leagues is an interesting outcome which supports the idea that professional sports teams in the US are acting rationally.

Methods

The author demonstrates the ability to use ordinary least squares regressions in the scope of academic research. The regression models are enhanced by use of clustered standard errors, which demonstrates a satisfactory grasp of econometric techniques.

Literature

The review of literature is carefully written and includes a thorough overview of the relevant studies.

Manuscript form

The manuscript is well structured and satisfies the formatting needed in a bachelor thesis. There are some minor formatting discrepancies such as Table 4.5. being labeled only Table 5 or Table 3.1 not utilizing an ideal horizontal alignment, however, the formatting is satisfactory as a whole.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

The thesis is well written and, in my opinion, satisfies the conditions to pass the defense as a bachelor thesis. It is visible that the author spent extensive time on the thesis. I recommend the thesis for a defense with an Excellent grade.

I would suggest the following questions for the defense:

- The *experience* variable is found to be statistically significant in some cases and insignificant in some other cases? Can you explain this finding based on the specifics of the sports/players included in each of the samples?
- The thesis mentions that some discrimination may be hidden in performance related compensation which could be addressed by including interaction variables. Which performance variables would you plan to explore by means of such interaction variables?

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

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CATEGORY	POINTS
Contribution (max. 30 points)	27
Methods (max. 30 points)	26
Literature (max. 20 points)	20
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	91
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	A

NAME OF THE REFEREE: PhDr. Radek Janhuba, M.A., Ph.D.

DATE OF EVALUATION: Jun 1, 2019



Referee Signature