Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	**BSc. Miroslava María Palecek Rodríguez**
Advisor:	**Doc. PhDr. Tomáš Havránek, Ph.D.**
Title of the thesis:	**Migration and Development:** **A Meta-Analysis**

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

Maria started to work on the thesis more than year and a half ago and she has made substantial progress since that time in her mastery of econometrics. In her thesis she focuses on the nexus between migration flows and the level of development of the country of origin and provides the first meta-analysis on the topic. Writing the first meta-analysis is difficult because one has to design an entire structure of the dataset (See Table 4.5 for an example of the work involved) and requires the manual collection of thousands of data points from individual studies (40 in this case). Of course it is very difficult to establish causality in this literature, but Maria's results suggest that there is little correlation between development and migration. She also finds very little publication bias and documents the sources of heterogeneity in the literature. I believe the contribution is solid. It would require a lot of work, but a paper based on this thesis could be potentially be published in World Development. Thus I award 23 points.

Methods

Maria has mastered several modern meta-analysis techniques including the weighted average of adequately powered and Bayesian model averaging. She clusters standard errors at the study level and uses the number of observations as an instrument for the standard error. There are several recently developed techniques that are mentioned in the thesis but not applied (Andrews and Kasy, Furukawa, etc.). Thus I award 20 points.

Literature

As far as I can tell, almost all relevant papers are properly quoted. Thus I award 18 points.

Manuscript form

The thesis is typeset in LaTeX and written in competent English, which tends to be a bit wooden and unnecessarily complicated at times. But Maria has her entire research career in front of her and a lot of time to improve further. Thus I award 16 points.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

I recommend the thesis for defense with grade C or better depending on the committee's evaluation. Suggested question for thesis defense: could you comment on the outlier in the upper right corner of Figure 5.1? Isn't it a typo? The results of the Urkund analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	23
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	20
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	18
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	16
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**77**
GRADE	**(A – B – C – D – E – F)**	**C**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Doc. PhDr. Tomáš Havránek, Ph.D.

Digitally signed (12.8.2020)
Tomáš Havránek

DATE OF EVALUATION: 12.8.2020

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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