Report on **Master Thesis**

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

Student:	**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
In her thesis, the author studies the relationship between migration and development. For that purpose, the author collects 179 estimates from 40 studies and conducts a meta-analysis. The results indicate presence of publication bias thus implying only a weak relationship between economic development and migration. As no meta-analysis was conducted on this topic yet, I believe that the author's analysis makes a nice contribution to the literature.

The author does a good job of describing her methodological approach and discussing the results of her meta-analysis and her findings. However, the results lack a clearer connection to the theoretical literature as their implications are not discussed in light of the theory covered in Chapter 2 of the thesis. Furthermore, in some instances it is not clear what relationship is being studied as the author mostly refers to the question at hand as the relationship between migration and development not specifying whether it is imigration/emigration/net migration.

Methods
In her thesis the author conducts a meta-analysis of studies assessing the relationship between economic development and migration. The first step of her analysis is a literature search to identify relevant studies. She than relies on Funnel Asymmetry Test and Precision Effect Test to test for the presence of publication bias in primary studies. The author also studies heterogeneity in the research by relying on Bayesian Model Averaging. The author seems to have a strong grasp of the methodology and its foundations as documented by an extensive chapter discussing the methodological approach (Chapter 3).

Literature
The author provides a comprehensive review of both the theoretical literature as well as empirical studies assessing the relationship between migration and development. All studies in the main text seem to be correctly referenced. However, not all studies in Table A.1, which contains the list of all primary studies used in the meta-analysis, are referenced. This is the case of e.g. Adams JR. & Page (2005), Belot & Ederveen (2012), Cappelen et al. (2015), Clark et al. (2002), Clark et al. (2004). Thus hindering the reader's ability to go through the primary studies.

Manuscript form
The thesis is written in proper english and nicely typesetted in Latex. All tables and figures are self-contained and overall the thesis reads well. Though the thesis contains some errors, these are sparse and do not hinder the understanding of the text.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense
Overall I believe that the thesis deals with a relevant topic using appropriate methodological approach. The results of the Urkund analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available

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sources. In my view, the thesis fulfils the requirements for a master thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, I recommend it for defense and suggest a **grade B**.

Below I provide some questions that can be asked at the defense:

- Could you relate your findings to the theories about the relationship between migration and development? Do they have any implications for these theories?
- Could you provide a more detailed discussion of the primary studies? Do they focus on immigration/emigration/net migration? Are their results comparable?

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	25
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	28
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	18
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	18
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**89**
GRADE	**(A – B – C – D – E – F)**	**B**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Marek Šedivý

DATE OF EVALUATION: 8. 9. 2020

Digitálně podepsáno (8. 9. 2020)
Marek Šedivý
_____
Referee Signature

<u>*EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:*</u>

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.*

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.*

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

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.*

<u>*Overall grading:*</u>

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