

Institut ekonomických studií

Fakulta sociálních věd, Karlova universita Praha

Supervisor report on the Bachelor/Master Thesis submitted to State Exam

Student Name:	Lubomír Cingl
Thesis Supervisor Name:	Mgr. Ing. Vilém Semerák, Ph.D.
Thesis Title:	Measuring Inequality: Trends and Determinants of Income Inequality in Developing Countries

Overall Evaluation:

Mr. Cingl in his thesis analyzes inequality – its definitions, methods of measurement, development over time and attempts an empirical analysis of its determinants. Larger part of the thesis is actually a survey of different approaches to defining and measurement of inequality, shorter part deals with author's own empirical analysis.

As far as problems of the paper are concerned, the treatment of determinants of inequality (chapter 7), and of the role of trade in changes of inequality (e.g. the new economic geography models) is rather sketchy. This part would probably deserve a bit more systematic treatment, especially if it is to be used as a starting point for derivation of specification of the suggested econometric model.

The presented paper is fairly comprehensive and detailed in its treatment of the topic and the author has clearly demonstrated the ability to work with empirical data at a level more than adequate for an undergraduate student. As his supervisor I have witnessed his diligent attempts at gathering and analyzing empirical data. Therefore, I recommend the thesis for the defense and suggest grade A ("výborně").

Questions:

1. Provide explanation of the specification of your econometric model.
2. Which definition and measure of inequality do you consider as the most useful one?

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for the explanation of categories and scale, please, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
Quality of Research	27
Clarity and Readability	36
Content/Quality of Ideas	13
Organization & Development	9
Manuscript Form	4
TOTAL POINTS	89
LETTER GRADE	A


Mgr. Ing. Vilém Semerák

Evaluated on: June 16, 2007

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Explanation of categories and scale:

QUALITY OF RESEARCH: The thesis demonstrates the author's full understanding and command of current literature and he/she uses it competently. The topic of the thesis is well structured and methods used are proper and relevant to the research question being investigated. A full and accurate analysis of thesis statement, from both a theoretical and applied perspective, is provided.

<i>Strong</i>			<i>Middle</i>				<i>Weak</i>		
30	27	24	21	18	15	12	8	4	0

CONTENT/QUALITY OF IDEAS: A range and depth of exposition; an appropriate sense of complexity of the topic; appropriate analysis of the thesis statement; and an accurate understanding of theoretical concepts is demonstrated. A full discussion of applicable and relevant theories stylized data is included. Original, creative thought is provided and evident. Demonstrates critical thinking and analysis with application of theory and student's ability to draw conclusions based on their knowledge, skills and research.

<i>Strong</i>			<i>Middle</i>				<i>Weak</i>		
40	36	32	28	24	20	15	10	5	0

ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT: The paper demonstrates a logical and clear arrangement of ideas; an effective use of transitions; a unity and coherence of paragraphs; and a clear development of ideas through supporting detail and evidence. The reader is successfully oriented to the subject, purpose, methodology, and structure of the report; an overview of the whole is included; the reader's attention and interest is engaged. The thesis statement is clearly and definitively stated without ambiguity. The conclusion is strong and reflective of the work as a whole.

<i>Strong</i>			<i>Middle</i>				<i>Weak</i>		
15	13	12	10	8	6	4	2	0	

CLARITY AND READABILITY: Ease of readability; appropriate use of language and style for the rhetorical content; clarity of sentences (reader doesn't get lost; minimum need for slowing down or re-reading) is appropriately demonstrated. Professional level of English expression is evident (limited amount of non-native language to English translation is detectable).

<i>Strong</i>			<i>Middle</i>				<i>Weak</i>		
10	9	8	7	6	5	3	2	1	0

MANUSCRIPT FORM: The appropriate manuscript form and style for the rhetorical content; a professional image; an appropriate use of headings and sub-headings; an appropriate format for graphs and tables; an effective referencing of graphs and tables in the text; complete and accurate bibliography documented to support the applied research; and the overall impact of document design is considered.

<i>Strong</i>		<i>Middle</i>		<i>Weak</i>	
5	4	3	2	1	0