Report on Master Thesis

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

Student:	**Bc. Kateřina Kroupová**
Advisor:	**doc. PhDr. Tomáš Havránek, Ph.D.**
Title of the thesis:	**The Impact of Student Employment on Educational Outcomes: 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

The student performs a meta-analysis of 69 studies estimating the impact of student employment on their educational outcomes. The original contribution of the thesis is clear: as far as I know, this is the first quantitative survey of this literature correcting for publication bias and covering such a wide literature. Moreover, the contribution is nicely identified and explained in the Introduction of the thesis.

Kateřina produced a thesis of almost publication-ready quality. Everything, that a reader expects from a good meta-analysis, is there: the theoretical introduction into the topic of employment vs. educational outcomes, a detailed review of the empirical literature on this topic, careful description of the collected data, explanation of the meta-analytical tools and methods, and finally a careful exposition of the meta-analysis iself, including a number of robustness checks and a best-practice simulation.

Methods

Kateřina not only uses the standard meta-analytical methods correctly, she even includes in her thesis a number of very recent approaches to identifying the publication bias. This further confirms the robustness of her findings, but also her good orientation in the meta-analytical methods.

I have a couple of suggestions which may be useful for future revisions of the text:

1. I was wondering if some part of the heterogeneity of the primary studies results could not be also explained by country- or time-specific variables connected to either employment (such as some measure of flexibility of the labor market) or schooling systems. Even though 80 % of observations come from the USA, there may be still some differences across the individual states, or some development over time.
2. Would it be possible, as an additional robustness check, to keep the variable „endogeneity" and drop the individual variables describing estimation methods instead? Maybe it would better capture the effect of accounting for the potential endogeneity in the estimation of the effect of employment on educational outcomes. Because the estimation method variables may also capture some additional differences.
3. And last, I would appreciate to have a bit more detailed discussion regarding the size of the PCC. What does it mean, in terms of a strength of the relationship, that the best practice PCC estimate is -0.02. Which PCC would be needed, to get a strong relationship?

Literature

The thesis provides a thorough review of the existing literature. I do not see how it could be improved.

Manuscript form

The thesis is a pleasure to read. I only found a couple of minor issues: 1. TSLS is Two-Stage, not Two-Square; 2. Usually, to denote variables with predicted values, $\widehat{hat}$ is used; 3. In English, both

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'single' and "double" quotation marks have their specific symbols and are different at the beginning and at the end of the quotation. Whereas Word, for instance, does the replacement automatically, in LaTeX you have to use the correct symbols.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

Kateřina wrote a beautiful master thesis, which is practically ready for publication in a high-quality journal. In my view, the thesis fulfills the requirements for a master thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, I recommend it for the defense and suggest a grade „A".

Moreover, I strongly believe that the thesis should be nominated for the outstanding thesis award.

The results of the Urkund analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

Suggested questions for the defense:
1. Can you think of some country-specific or time-variant variables, which could be used to explain some additional part of the effect heterogeneity?
2. What exactly does the PCC of -0.02 mean? Which PCC would signify a strong relationship?
3. Did you try to keep the variable „endogeneity" and drop the others which are strongly correlated with it?

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	30
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	30
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	20
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	19
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**99**
GRADE	**(A – B – C – D – E – F)**	**A**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: PhDr. Jiří Schwarz Ph.D.

DATE OF EVALUATION: 15.1.2021

Digitally signed (15.1.2021)
Jiří Schwarz

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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.*

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.*

Overall grading:

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