

Advisor's Report on Dissertation Thesis

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Title of the Thesis:	Three Essays in Development Economics
Type of Defense:	DEFENSE
Date of Pre-Defense	October 14, 2020

Address the following questions in your report, please:

- a) Can you recognize an original contribution of the author?
- b) Is the thesis based on relevant references?
- c) Is the thesis defensible at your home institution or another respected institution where you gave lectures?
- d) Do the results of the thesis allow their publication in a respected economic journal?
- e) Are there any additional major comments on what should be improved?
- f) What is your overall assessment of the thesis? (a) I recommend the thesis for defense without substantial changes, (b) the thesis can be defended after revision indicated in my comments, (c) not-defensible in this form.

(Note: The report should be at least 2 pages long.)

To start, I want to say that Petra has worked very autonomously, what is linked with her labor involvement abroad. Nevertheless, it was my pleasure to be her supervisor and to keep quite a distant eye on her scientific endeavor and to collaborate with her.

Address the following questions in your report, please:

- g) Can you recognize an original contribution of the author?

This thesis contains three original essays from the scientific field "Economic Development". In her first essay, Petra with her co-authors presents a meta-analysis of the effect of financial development on economic growth. For her second essay, she and her collaborators developed a detailed least-cost optimization model to identify the incremental costs of providing access for the group of 12 countries in the Southern African Power Pool. She discusses quite broadly the results of this model in her second essay. In her third essay, she and her collaborators analyse the benefits of trade among countries in the Southern African Power Pool, focusing on how international trade can reduce the underlying costs of supply and therefore the costs of providing electricity. This analysis, based on a least-cost power sector expansion model, shows that the existing interconnection capacity is not utilized efficiently, meaning that countries are forgoing some benefits of power trade in the short term

and also benefits of taking a regional approach to power system planning. This result has a big potential for considering different tools of economic policy in developing countries.

I think that all three essays are original. This dissertation thesis also addressed comments raised during the pre-defense and additional comments received from the journal referees in which each respective research paper was published – in Annex 9.

h) Is the thesis based on relevant references?

Yes. There are lists of tens of relevant references at the end of the first chapter “General Introduction” and at the ends of each of three following chapters. These references are discussed in more detail in the text of relevant chapters as well.

i) Is the thesis defensible at your home institution or another respected institution where you gave lectures?

I believe that this thesis is defensible at the Institute of Economic Studies of Charles University in Prague.

j) Do the results of the thesis allow their publication in a respected economic journal?

The essay in the second chapter was already published with co-authors as: Valickova, P., Havranek, T., Horvath, R., 2015. Financial development and economic growth: A meta-analysis. *Journal of Economic Surveys* 29, 506–526. <https://doi.org/10.1111/joes.12068>. The essay in the third chapter was already published in journal „Energy Policy“. The essay in the fourth chapter was invited for revised submission to the „Journal of Sustainable Development“.

k) Are there any additional major comments on what should be improved?

I do not think any further revisions could make Petra’s dissertation thesis any better, her work linked with her dissertation research continues in revising the 4th chapter for the “Journal of Sustainable Development”.

l) What is your overall assessment of the thesis? (a) I recommend the thesis for defense without substantial changes, (b) the thesis can be defended after revision indicated in my comments, (c) not-defendable in this form.

I recommend the thesis for defense without substantial changes.

Date:	
Advisor’s Signature:	
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