Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	**Tomáš Suchomel**
Advisor:	**PhDr. Radek Janhuba, M.A., Ph.D.**
Title of the thesis:	**The Relationship between Success in North American Sports and Birth Rates**

OVERALL ASSESSMENT:

Short summary

This thesis is exceptionaly thorough, methodologically rigorous and very well structured. It takes on a research question of whehter a sport victories positively affects birth rates. Although the broad definition of the question places many challanges – how to define what vicotries to consider, how to eliminate other potential effects, how to identify the fans we would expect to be affected – the author manages to deal with them on a very satisfying level and demonstrates a strong analytical rigor.

Autor seems to be also well aware of potential limitations of the study as he describes them in the last section and also does a decent job when interpreting the results. The broadness and relevance of the research question can be potentially seen as the work's weak points. But that left aside, the author has deliver an admirable piece of work.

Contribution

The relevance of the research question might be perceived as the weakest point. Even if we were to conclude that sport vicotries result in higer birth rates, should we really conclude that policy makers should implement policy supporting sports as the author argues? The counter-argument would be that sports are a zero-sum game, i.e each victory generates a defeat as well.

Of course, this is not to deny that such an insight would be completely irrelevant. It only seems less obvious at least and harder to argue.

Anyways, the author's considerable contribution is in using a rich dataset and applying a novel approach enabled by the granularity of the dataset used (specifically using the variable 'Gestational Age at Birth' to pin down the date of conception more precisely).

Methods

The most problematic is the selection of relevant victories. This can be broken down into 3 levels – choosing (i) the relevant sports, (ii) the relevant leagues, and (iii) the specific games that matter. The author argues thoroughly and very reasonably on all these levels. However, the need for this selection naturally affects the research as the results can be always poluted by other sport events that simply fell out of the selection.

The estimation method is properly chosen and the author demonstrates a profound understanding of econometrics. Several specifications are used, all of them very well described and argued, all of it very consistent and rigorous.

Literature

The literature review is exemplary. It is comprehensive, exhaustive, very well structured and easy to follow.

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Manuscript form

The format of the thesis is outstanding,deploys a dilligent style of writing and formatting. Written in excellent english, the languange is clear and appropriate. The text has a good flow, is well structured and is easy to follow.

Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

I am delighted to see such a piece work being submitted by our student. I do reccoment the thesis for defense and I suggest a grade A.

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

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	25
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	30
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	20
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	20
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**95**
GRADE	**(A – B – C – D – E – F)**	**A**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Tomáš Kučera

DATE OF EVALUATION: *31/08/2021*

Digitálně podepsáno (31.8.2021)
Tomáš Kučera

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Referee Signature