

Opponent's Report on Dissertation Thesis

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Title of the Thesis:	Four essays on Policy Evaluation and Analysis
Type of Defense:	DEFENSE
Date of Pre-Defense	June 2, 2021
Opponent:	Prof. Ing. Karel Janda M.A. Dr. Ph.D. (IES)

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.)

- a) Yes, I clearly recognize an original contribution of the author Vědunka Kopečná. All three substantive chapters provide important original contributions. First two papers on energy economics are coauthored with Milan Scasny and other coauthors. The third paper on labor market is single authored by Vědunka Kopečná. Following the requirements on clear identification of the contribution by different co-authors in both co-authored papers, Vědunka Kopečná provided a very clear explicit information about her contribution in these papers on pages 3 and 4 of this dissertation (Chapter 1, General Introduction).
- b) Yes, the thesis is based on relevant references. Since all the papers are very different from one another, there was a need to cover three separate sets of literature in this thesis. All this was done in an excellent way.
- c) Yes, I consider this thesis to be defensible at my home institutions (IES) without any need for any changes.
- d) Yes, the results of the thesis allow their publication in a respected economic journal.

The third essay (Internships for Job Seekers...) was already published in rather low level journal Central European Journal of Public Policy, which I consider to be rather an underselling of this good quality paper.

The second essay (Elasticity of Substitution...) was already presented as IES WP (2020) and it either already submitted to Energy Economics or it is supposed to be submitted there soon. (The statement "is currently being submitted to the Energy Economics journal" on page 1 of this thesis does not allow me to be more clear with respect whether the paper was already submitted at this moment).

The first essay (Hybrid General Equilibrium...) was recently published in the top sub-field journal The Energy Journal. Vedunka Kopečna is in this way in the league of excellent IES Phd students who under the guidance of Milan Scasny, Tomas Havranek or Zuzana Irsova managed to publish some of their dissertation research on the level of top sub-field publication in the subfield of energy economics.

e) I do not have any comments for improvements. I recommend the thesis to be defended and published as thesis as it is, without any changes.

f) My recommendation is (a) I recommend the thesis for defense without substantial changes.

This is clearly a good PhD thesis. The core of this thesis are first and second essays dealing with CGE in energy modelling. The third essay dealing with a state of art applied econometrics on job market data is rather different from the rest of the thesis and it clearly serves as a "third essay" to keep the standard 3- essays format of PhD dissertation. However, to be fair, this applied econometrics paper about effects of internships on job markets outcomes for young people is public policy oriented, so it nicely fits into the public policy framework of the other energy economics papers. In such a way, this thesis is fully fine as a standard PhD thesis.

During the thesis defense I would recommend to pay explicit attention to the issue of technological change in the formulation and estimation of CES production function. This may be interesting both from the theoretical point of view (considering just general technological change or including also specific issue of energy relevant technological change), and from the empirical point of view (obtaining negative rate of technological change in the estimation results).

Vedunka Kopečna sufficiently incorporated all my comments and suggestions into the current version of this thesis. Therefore I fully recommend her thesis to be accepted for the defense as it is without any need for further changes. And I recommend to award her the title of Ph.D. in economics.

Date:	January 3, 2022
Opponent's Signature:	
Opponent's Affiliation:	Prof. Ing. Karel Janda M.A. Dr. Ph.D. (IES)