

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Michaela Hocková
Advisor:	Mgr. Roman Kalabiška
Title of the thesis:	Macroeconomic Determinants of Crime: Evidence from Scandinavia

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

Please provide a short summary of the thesis, your assessment of each of the four key categories, and an overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Short summary

This thesis studies the topic of criminality in Scandinavia and the underlying factors that explain it. It is divided into three parts. The first part analyses determinants of homicides on annual data on a cross-country level. The second analyses homicides, sexual offences and property crimes in Danish provinces (i.e. regional level, with quarterly data). The third works with annual data for homicides, sexual offences and property crimes on a municipal level for the three biggest and most problematic Swedish cities.

Contribution

Just like the author, neither I have found any broad analysis of crime determinants in Scandinavia. The reason for that might be the difficulty to obtain higher frequency than annual data. Because of that, the contribution of this thesis is rather limited, as the author had to work with a low amount of data in two of the three parts of her analysis. On the other hand, the dataset she used is collected from multiple national sources, thoroughly described and covers a combination of cross-country, regional and municipal-level data.

Methods

The author works with standard panel data estimators as well as a more advanced alternative VECM, though only to estimate the long-run equations. The results of both methods are shown side by side and explained in detail. Standard tests for stationarity, cointegration, heteroskedasticity and autocorrelation are also included and interpreted correctly. As a part of the sensitivity analysis in chapter 5.4, the author also tried using alternative model specifications, which she could talk about more at the defense.

Literature

Chapter 2 provides the reader with a comprehensive overview of both the theoretical studies as well as empirical literature on the topic of crime in economics. All citations are made properly and the author makes references in appropriate places throughout the text.

Manuscript form

The thesis is written in good English; or at least I did not find any typos and never struggled with the intended meaning. It is typeset in LaTeX, which results in a professional appearance. I found the text convenient to read. In my opinion, the manuscript meets the criteria of a bachelor thesis.

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Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

I believe that the thesis fulfills the requirements for a bachelor thesis at the Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University. I recommend the thesis for the defense and suggest a grade B. The results of the Urkund analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

Question for the defense

I suggest that the author could explain in more detail her data collection process and also how she chose the final model specifications in her analysis.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	18
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	24
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	82
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	B

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *Mgr. Roman Kalabiška*

DATE OF EVALUATION: 20/05/2022

Digitálně podepsáno (20.5.2022)
Roman Kalabiška

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