

Opponent's Report on Dissertation Thesis

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Title of the Thesis:	Essays on Weather, Crime and Productivity
Type of Defense:	DEFENSE
Date of Pre-Defense	December 17, 2025
Opponent:	Prof. Ming-Jen Lin Ph.D. (National Taiwan University)

Address the following questions in your report, please:

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

a) Can you recognize an original contribution of the author?

ANS: yes. the author has been working on the effect of temperature on meaning outcomes for quite some time, and present part of the result at my lab meeting at National Taiwan University too. This topic is not new, but his three essays, from meta-analysis of 156 estimates to the daily crime of the Czech Republic, to the football games that span several continents, contribute to this literature with greater coverage of topics, and is fun to read.

b) Is the thesis based on relevant references?

ANS: Yes. for example, the important reference like Blakeslee, D. S. & R. Fishman (2018) is there. What is interesting is that the author cited many interdisciplinary literature, which makes the dissertation more approachable and conversational to researchers from other social sciences.

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

ANS: Yes, this dissertation is definitely defensible at my home department at National Taiwan University.

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

ANS: Yes, my evaluation is that essay 3 has a good shot at sports journal like Journal of Sport Economics or Sports Economic Review. Essay 2 and 1 may have a shot at filed journals like International Review of Law and Economics, or general interest journal like economic modelling.

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

ANS: In addition, the author has replied to my comment with great details at Appendix A1.

For example, I asked about the endogeneity problem in my previous comment. The author replied the following:

Since my identification strategy relies on daily changes in crime and weather, I do not expect business cycle variables to cause an endogeneity problem. I explain this briefly in the corresponding section of Chapter 3: "The identifying variation comes from within-district, day-to-day fluctuations in weather, which are plausibly exogenous to short-run changes in economic activity and other socio-economic factors. These factors evolve at lower frequencies and are absorbed by the rich set of fixed effects."

I think this is enough to show the weather is exogenous, especially at the daily basis.

As for essay, my main question would be whether match attendance can serve as an intermediate variable to the temperature effect on crime. The author has provided a robustness check using an interaction between match attendance and temperature (Table A4.22) to assess whether the temperature effect on soccer productivity is particularly pronounced during highly attended matches. He also added a paragraph to the thesis to explain this in more detail: "To examine whether high-profile matches are systematically scheduled in response to television requirements and therefore correlated with temperature, stadium occupancy, used as a proxy for match salience, is included together with its interaction with temperature. The results in Table A4.22 indicate that the estimated temperature effects are not driven by selectively scheduled top matches.", page 117. This is also a satisfactory reply.

I am therefore satisfied with them and do not have any further comments

- 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-defendable in this form.

ANS: Overall, I am satisfied with this revision. I recommend the thesis for defense without substantial changes,

Date:	2026/01/19
Opponent's Signature:	
Opponent's Affiliation:	Prof. Ming-Jen Lin Ph.D. (National Taiwan University)