OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The thesis explores a very interesting topic of herd behaviour, i.e. convergence to similar or same behaviour. The first theoretical chapter introduces the general concept of Bayesian framework followed by a detailed theoretical analysis of herd behaviour and information cascades in the second chapter. The theory is presented in satisfactory detail and elaborates on many issues such as reputational herding. The third chapter provides three practical applications of information cascades frameworks, (1) Czech credit unions banks runs, (2) smoking ban information cascade, and (3) new technology adoption information cascade.

The thesis is in general of excellent quality, I appreciate especially the topic chosen which is for me quite novel. It is well structured, the author utilises many sources of information and shows an appropriate command of the literature. The third chapter analyses not only the third applications of information cascades but provides other examples where such concepts can be employed.

Regarding some qualifications to the thesis, I would recommend to put even more effort to the flow of arguments especially in the third chapter so the most important points are highlighted and easier to follow. Secondly, I would recommend changing the style of some references, sometimes the whole reference including a full very long internet address is included within the main text which is not standard and makes the thesis less pleasant to read. Thirdly, there are a few typos so the thesis would benefit from a more diligent proofreading.

However, these points in my opinion do not outweigh the strengths of the thesis, hence in the case of successful defence, I recommend **"výborně" (excellent, 1)**.

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	17
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	25
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	25
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	15
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**82**
GRADE	**(1 – 2 – 3 – 4)**	

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Radovan Chalupka

DATE OF EVALUATION: 10. June 2010

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Referee Signature