Report on **Bachelor / Master Thesis**

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

Student:	**Magdaléna Radová**
Advisor:	**PhDr. Lubomír Cingl**
Title of the thesis:	**Third party punishment games: What do they really measure?**

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

The author Magdaléna Radová provides in her thesis an extensive overview of the current state-of-the-arts in the field of third-party punishment games in experimental economics. The thesis is very well structured and written in very good English. She studies the third-party punishment from various points of view and demonstrates her deep knowledge in the field. The topic itself is interdisciplinary and relatively new but rapidly growing so a first review article (thesis) comes at the right time. The thesis is with its quality and scope comparable to review articles in international journals. Furthermore, the author outlines an interesting experiment which shows apart from her theoretical also her methodological skills.

The thesis consists of six chapters: chapter one introduces experimental economics, discusses the divergence from experimental psychology and defines important methodological notions that are needed for her work. Chapter two discusses probably the most important use of third-party punishment – it is a tool for the enforcement of social norms. It is used as an extension of standard experimental games such as the dictator game, ultimatum game or public goods game. These games are introduced and the feature of third-party punishment discussed. The author also provides detailed summary statistics from the experiments that were carried-out with the third-party punishment option. In chapter three the author discusses the underlying reasons for why people actually punish. Fluently she gets into chapter 4 where she gets into relevant contemporary theories of social preferences and also provides a critical review of these. Third-party punishment varies greatly also with various socio-cultural characteristics, which a topic of her fifth chapter. Finally, the sixth chapter is a sketch of her own experiment, which would compare the efficiency of third-party punishment and a third-party reward. The topic is truly interdisciplinary as can be shown on the number of studies cited from not only economics, but psychology, Science and Nature.

Summary: Magdalena proved she understands the topic very well, can think critically about complicated concepts and that she can apply the theoretical knowledge in the form of her own experiment. The thesis is a comprehensive literature review with a critical stance to all mentioned facts with a value added in the form of a correct experimental design.
As far as I can tell, she did not miss any important papers in the area and her argumentation in the critical parts of the thesis is clear and effective. On the other hand, all included information is relevant and needed so the thesis does not contain any unnecessary passages, although the definitions and introduction to elementary concepts of experimental economics and game theory was on the edge. The comparison of the theories of social preferences in the framework of consistency with the concept of third-party punishment is very interesting. Her experimental design, despite being quite concise, is done with care and is novel in the literature which shows that Magdalena can also apply her knowledge. Overall, I am satisfied with the final outcome and suggest that the committee should consider her as a candidate for the reward of the dean.

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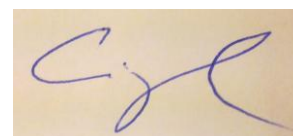
SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY		POINTS
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	20
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	28
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	25
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	30
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**93**
GRADE	**(1 – 2 – 3 – 4)**	**1**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *PhDr. Lubomír Cingl*

DATE OF EVALUATION: *June 3, 2013*

Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

Strong	Average	Weak
20	10	0

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.*

Strong	Average	Weak
30	15	0

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.*

Strong	Average	Weak
30	15	0

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.*

Strong	Average	Weak
20	10	0

Overall grading:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE		
81 – 100	1	= excellent	= výborně
61 – 80	2	= good	= velmi dobře
41 – 60	3	= satisfactory	= dobře
0 – 40	4	= fail	= nedoporučuji k obhajobě