

REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

IEPS – International Economic and Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Title of the thesis:	Homo Economicus and Nature of Human Beings
Author of the thesis:	Luka Djikanovic
Referee (incl. titles):	Tomáš Janotík MSc.

Remark: It is a standard at the FSV UK that the Referee's Report is at least 500 words long. In case you will assess the thesis as "non-defendable", please explain the concrete reasons for that in detail.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i>	15
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	15
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	12
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	12
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	15
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)	69
The proposed grade (1-2-3-4)	2

You can even use a decimal point (e.g. giving the grade of 2.5 for 60 points).

Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the 5 numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).

1) Theoretical background:

The thesis investigates how the concept of homo economicus and selected philosophical approaches to human nature affect individuals and their relationship with the society. The choice of the topic can be considered to be very good but also quite challenging. In the first part of the thesis (chapter 2) the author focuses on the notion of Homo economicus, analyzes his rationality and tries to find out how it is present in the modern economy and in the decision making of economic agents. Then in chapter 3 he discusses human nature by looking at passions and driving forces that are guiding individual's preferences and inclinations. This part draws inspiration mainly from Adam Smith. At the end author concludes that society and individuals constantly affect each other in many ways. It can be said that the aim of the thesis is a description of the influence of individuals on society and vice versa by looking at this problem from point of view of economics and philosophy.

2) Contribution:

Author's strongest point is the fact that he is a good narrator. The thesis provides an interesting excursion into the relationship between individual as an economic agent and society as an environment that surrounds him. The reading of the thesis is interesting and enjoyable. The author always illustrates his arguments with real-life examples and experiences, mostly from his home country – Montenegro. This makes the thesis original and attractive to the reader.

3) Methods:

Luka Djikanovic proceeds in a similar manner throughout the whole thesis. The thesis puts together ideas and approaches from the literature in order to arrive at a description of the relationship between Homo economicus and human nature. The thesis is a collection of ideas borrowed from other authors and Luka Djikanovic attempts to put these ideas into one coherent whole.

4) Literature:

Author shows good familiarity with relevant literature in the field and demonstrates orientation in economics and related disciplines. He has a satisfactory understanding of important micro- and macroeconomic concepts and theories (such as rational expectations theory, theory of the firm, foundations of economic rationality) and applies them well to support his arguments. However, I believe that he would benefit from adding more authors to his analysis. The most important problem is that some parts of the thesis seem to rely too much on a single source (either Smith or Hayek). Work with literature is one of the author's weakest points.

5) Manuscript form:

The thesis fulfills relevant formal requirements and the manuscript form is appropriate to Master's level. There are some minor mistakes in the usage of English language but they are neither frequent nor too disturbing to the reader. The thesis has a clear logical structure and comes up with well-formulated arguments. The author makes clear what his objectives are and sticks to a logical structure set out at the beginning of his work.

In my opinion, the concluding section could be much shorter and should focus only on summarizing the findings from the previous section. The analysis performed in the conclusion should have been included elsewhere, in one of the preceding chapters.

Taking all the above into consideration, I recommend this thesis for defense and propose to grade it with grade "good/ 2 / B /".

DATE OF EVALUATION: 23/01/2013

Referee Signature