

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Bc. Jana Hrivniakova
Advisor:	PhDr. Tomas Sedlacek
Title of the thesis:	Sacrifice as Investment, Investment as Sacrifice

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

This Master thesis is a novel attempt to reexamine from a cross-disciplinary perspective the traditional view on investment. This work attempts to connect two seemingly separate areas investment and sacrifice and find similarities and differences between the two.

The student has shown a good degree of innovative thinking and a sense for creative linkage. This work can be both useful to challenge the economic as well as religious superstitions – it shows the religious factors at play in modern economics (fear, hope, faith, belief in the systemic response, etc.) as well as economic motivations in what is considered purely spiritual matters (profit, reward, egoism, cost-benefit analysis, etc.).

Further than its historical survey, this work has some original ideas to contribute to the current debate. For example the shift in the sacrifice (from sacrificing products to sacrificing desires, from supply to demand) is a thought that could resonate in the academic world. Also some comments as to the current reaction to the financial crisis of 2007/2008 as of witty nature and could spark a debate.

As for the critique, I would much more prefer if the work would be longer in scope (which, considering other works that I have read, is actually a compliment) which would allow the author to go deeper in certain areas and reveal authors thoughts.

That having said, it is my belief that the work, if properly shortened, could be submitted for possible publication.

Possible questions for the jury:

In the thinking of pre-scientific beliefs, were there reflections when a sacrifice did not produce the desired empirical result? And if so, what line of argumentation was provided? Can you compare that with today's way of ex-post analysis of failed investments?

When an investment is successful, we say that an investment has "returned", elaborate on this from a historical perspective.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	16
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	87
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Tomáš Sedláček

DATE OF EVALUATION: 18.6.2014, Prague



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