

# Report on Rigorous Thesis

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

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Marek Pažitka</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>Julie Chytilová, PhD</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Effect of education on health: The Czech Republic case</b>

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

The aim of this thesis is to study the causal effect of education on health. The research question is a very important one and not a new one – it has been studied by a number of studies before, using similar methodology (using month of birth as an exogenous shock in education). Marek's contribution is the analysis of the data about respondents born in former Czechoslovakia and construction of a new measure of health which contains information from a number of questions on physical as well as mental health.

The thesis is of high quality. The research questions are clearly described and the manuscript well structured. Marek has a good knowledge of the relevant existing literature. The econometric methods are appropriate. I appreciate a careful data analysis, including a number of useful robustness checks which are well motivated, and careful interpretation of the results. Unfortunately, in the end the main research question could not be explored due to the fact that in the first stage the correlation between the instrumental variable (time difference between the school cut-off and month of birth) and education was not significant. Nevertheless, Marek provides several potential explanations for this non-result and is able to test relevance of some of them. He concludes that the most probable reason is that there is a high number of non-compliers in the sample – an information which is not available in the data. This is also consistent with high proportion of non-compliers in these days – the statistics reveals that in the last decade around one quarter of children started to attend school one year later (although we do not know what were the rates in the years when the respondents started to attend primary school).


In sum, I believe that the thesis fulfills the requirements for a rigorous thesis at IES FSV UK and I am happy to recommend it for the defence.

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	27
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>95</b>
<b>(doporučuji, nedoporučuji )</b>	<b>doporučuji</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** Julie Chytilová

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** February 19, 2015



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**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			
81 – 100	= excellent		
61 – 80	= good		
41 – 60	= satisfactory		
0 – 40	= fail		= nedoporučuji k obhajobě