

Report on Bachelor Thesis

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

Student:	Kristína Sacherová
Advisor:	Mgr. Barbara Pertold-Gebicka, M.A., Ph.D
Title of the thesis:	How discriminatory is the housing market in Slovakia: experimental investigation

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

The aim of the thesis is to study whether the Slovak housing market discriminates one of the largest ethnic minorities - Roma. This is indeed an important research question since the long term goal of integrating minorities into the society assumes efforts to reduce obstacles which they have to face. The author provides an exhaustive review of related literature. To study her research questions she uses an Internet field experiment and evaluate the results both using descriptive statistics and more advanced econometric models - linear probability model and probit. It is very obvious that she devoted a vast amount of time working on the thesis which is rather extensive and provides detailed analysis of the topic.

The thesis is very well written and the author shows that she can work independently and stay organized. I highly appreciate that the author provided me with the prepared dataset which makes the analysis very transparent.

However, despite a very detailed overview of the related literature the thesis does not provide the reader with an evident information what it brings new to the literature and thus it would benefit from highlighting more clearly the original contribution of the author to the literature in the field. Another issue concerns the fact that the whole discrimination examination is based only on the sounding of four names which I identify as a main problem with the thesis. Moreover, the statement that the names were chosen based on a questionnaire posted "to some Facebook page" (as written in the thesis) is not the most persuasive method.

What might have been considered besides the area of the real estate is its condition, whether it is newly build, reconstructed or in a poorer condition. Related to this is also the price of the real estate which might have an influence.

There were some very minor typos in the text (e.g. "Woodbridge, J. (2009). Introductory Econometrics."). For the Figure 1 I would recommend using another color scheme since gray is typically used for areas where data are unavailable.

Potential questions for the discussion during the defense would be the following:

- The author admitted that the choice of fictional characters applying for real estate advertisements is an issue in the experiment design. Could you think of other possibilities how to test for discrimination and make your results more robust?
- Do you have an idea how your results could be used for example by policy makers in their pursue of integrating minorities into the society?

I recommend the thesis for the defense and suggest grade A (výborně, 1).

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	19
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	23
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	19
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	86
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *Vědunka Kopečná*

DATE OF EVALUATION:

2.6.2016



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