

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Bc. Lucie Blechová
Advisor:	Mgr. Michal Paulus
Title of the thesis:	Czech Allergology and Clinical Immunology: Utilization and Provision in Space

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

The thesis conducts an empirical study on Czech allergology and clinical immunology (ACI). It contributes to the so called Medical Practice Variation (MPV) literature. In Czech context the author analyses unique dataset of the Ministry of Healthcare covering outpatient care aggregated on the district level. She has selected just records related to the ACI and analysed geographical variations of those records.

The methodology is primarily based on spatial econometric models which have not been used on the Ministry's dataset before to my knowledge. Also we are not aware of any "MPV" study covering ACI. Therefore the thesis from my perspective contributes to the existing literature in several ways:

- Empirical contribution
 - Uncovers geographical variation in ACI area as one of the only few existing studies (we are not aware of anyone). Therefore the empirical contribution is more general.
 - As the first study it examines dataset of the Ministry and provides us with findings for the Czech Republic.
- Policy contribution
 - The author analyses the variation using spatial models which exhibit spatial relations in the data. This finding can be of high relevance for policy makers (coordination of health policy and the mutual influence of the policy across regions) in case the tests do not point at the missing explanatory variables (however the dataset do not contain data on individual-level basis to examine this question).
 - The analysis also shows weaknesses of the Ministry dataset which is used by officials to analyse Czech health policy (see the point above). Also from this perspective the thesis can contribute to proper health policy management in the Czech Republic.

As a supervisor I was highly satisfied with the author and her effort to overcome all difficulties related to the analysis. The cooperation was above standard and I have no serious comments or critical remarks. Therefore I grade the thesis as excellent. I would only comment on few stylistic issues:

- I would recommend not dividing a table into two if it is not necessary (e.g. Table 3.9 on page 26).
- I would welcome reduction of the figures in the Chapter 4 to avoid two maps on one page (the number of figures is quite high in the chapter, therefore the reduction would be appreciated).

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	30
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	17
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	95
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Michal Paulus

DATE OF EVALUATION: January 18th 2016



Referee Signature