

Advisor's Report on Dissertation Thesis

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Author:	PhDr. Lubomír Cingl
Advisor:	PhDr. Michal Bauer, Ph.D.
Title of the Thesis:	Essays on Decision Making under Stress
Type of Defense:	DEFENSE
Date of Pre-Defense:	March 30, 2016

Address the following questions in your report, please:

- a) Can you recognize an original contribution of the author?
- b) Is the thesis based on relevant references?
- c) Do the results of the thesis allow their publication in a respected economic journal?
- d) Are there any additional major comments on what should be improved?
- e) Were the comments raised at the pre-defense, addressed in the dissertation submitted to the regular defense?
- f) What is your overall assessment of the thesis? (a) I recommend the thesis to be defended without major changes; (b) The thesis is not defensible.

(Note: The report should be at least 2 pages long.)

Content of the Report:

Dear colleagues,

it is a great pleasure for me to write this report for Lubomír Cingl. The main line of Lubomír's research focuses on the effects of acute stress and time pressure on decision-making. Understanding these effects is interesting for psychological scientists and, as is increasingly recognized, for economists as well. This is because many important economic decisions are taken under acute stress (at work, during a hiring process, selections to schools, etc) and (more speculatively) understanding such effects may speak to emerging literature on psychology of poverty, since it is well documented that poverty goes hand in hand with greater stress .

One of his papers „Risk preferences under acute stress“ (joint with Jana Cahlíková from Max Planck Institute in Munich, forthcoming in *Experimental Economics*) investigates the causal effect of acute stress on risk attitudes. This is a carefully designed lab experiment, which combines (a) tools from psychology (Trier Social Stress Test), to induce acute psychosocial stress, (b) measures of physiological markers (salivary cortisol, heart rate) and (c) behavior in standard incentivized tasks to elicit risk aversion. The main finding is that acute stress increases risk aversion. Interestingly, the effects seem to be larger for men as

compared to women. While in the control group (no stress) women are more risk averse than men, in line with previous findings, this difference diminishes when subjects make choices under stress.

Lubomír's dissertation contains two other related papers. The first one builds on his MA thesis and explores the effects of time pressure on herding and it was published in *Prague Economic Papers*. The second one studies the effects of psycho-social stress on herding and I think it is publishable in a good field journal. The last paper on the effects of stress (a very fresh one and not part of his dissertation, joint with Jana Cahlíková and Ian Lively, University of Wageningen) explores the effects of stress on another fundamental domain of decision-making—willingness to compete, and focuses on the differential effects across gender. This is a very promising paper, since it can help to explain observed gender differences in labor market outcomes. I believe it has a chance to be published in a top international journal.

All these paper show that Lubomír can come up with interesting questions, make a contribution to the literature, and that he is a careful and competent experimentalist.

During his PhD studies Lubomir visited the University of British Columbia for one semester and presented his work at many international conferences. His research projects are generally succesful in attracting funding: Lubomír has received grants from Charles University Grant Agency (GAUK) as well as GDN. He has a network of collaborators, including respected international scholars in economics and psychology: Ara Norenzayan, Aiyana Willard, Angeli Rawat (University of British Columbia, Vancouver), Ferdinand Vieider (WZB Berlin), and Peter Martinsson (University of Gothenburg). I am also pleased to mention that Lubomír plans to continue working in academia. He has recently started to work as an Assistant Professor at the Univerity of Economics, Department of Institutional, Environmental and Experimental Economics.

In sum, I think Lubomír has produced a nice dissertation thesis. I also believe has carefully addressed the points raised by referees during pre-defense and recommend the thesis to be defended.

I apologize for not being able to personally take part during the final defense. Please feel free to contact me, if more information is needed.

Kind regards,

Date:	June 10, 2016
Advisor's Signature:	
Advisor's Affiliation:	PhDr. Michal Bauer, Ph.D. IES FSV UK