

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Michal Kotrč</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>PhDr. Lenka Šťastná, Ph.D.</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	The Rise of Extreme Right: Evidence from the Slovak Parliamentary Election

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

### **Contribution**

The thesis contributes to the literature on determinants of extreme right voters' support. It analyzes recent results of Slovak parliamentary elections where extreme right received a relatively large share of votes. Contrary to other studies, the author managed to disentangle the effect of unemployed and Roma people, which penetrate each other otherwise. This allowed him to uncover a positive effect of unemployed people on voters' support of extreme right-wing party. The author also found that young, less-educated and blue-collar workers are likely to vote more often for the extreme right-wing party in Slovakia. Unlike other studies, the author also explored spatial effects, which is rare in the literature on voting behavior, and found spatial error correlation that can be assigned to omitted variables correlated in space.

### **Methods**

The author starts with the baseline OLS model and then tests for spatial effects. According to the diagnostics, the author continues with the spatial error model, taking into account that errors are correlated in space. He tests for two neighborhood matrices – first-order contiguity matrix, which considers only direct neighbors, and inverse distance matrix, which consider also other municipalities as neighbors, but municipalities lying further receive a lower weight. The methodology used is relevant to the research question being investigated. The only suggestion I have is to present also a specification with the share of Roma people and the share of Roma people squared instead of using categorical variables.

### **Literature**

The author provides an exhausting literature review on other recent studies analyzing extreme parties in various countries. He gives a broad overview of various determinants other studies cover in their analyses. The author also mentions studies which have been carried out for Slovakia and highlights contributions of this thesis. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.

### **Manuscript form**

The thesis is written in LaTeX, it is well structured, the used style and language is appropriate for an academic thesis.

Overall, the thesis is of a very high quality, it has a clear contribution and to my opinion, its results can be published in an international journal.

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	30
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	30
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	30
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>98</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	<b>1</b>

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***NAME OF THE REFEREE: PhDr. Lenka Šťastná, Ph.D.***

***DATE OF EVALUATION: 31.5.2017***



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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	GRADE		
81 – 100	<b>1</b>	= excellent	= výborně
61 – 80	<b>2</b>	= good	= velmi dobře
41 – 60	<b>3</b>	= satisfactory	= dobře
0 – 40	<b>4</b>	= fail	= nedoporučuji k obhajobě