

Report on Master's Thesis

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

Student:	Bc. Kateřina Chadimová
Advisor:	PhDr. Lubomír Cingl, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Predicting Field Experiment Results in a Lab

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

Contribution

Kateřina Chadimová wrote her thesis about a very interesting, unexplored and relevant topic: forecasting of the results of a field experiment in an economic laboratory. She designed a novel laboratory experiment and conducted it with almost 100 student subjects. She found that the forecast made by students is actually well informative about the real results of the effectiveness of the treatment manipulations in the field experiment, thus showing the external validity of laboratory experiments is not that restricted as is commonly thought. She also found that the wisdom-of-the-crowds can be found even here. Overall, her thesis has apart from academic also a practical application: companies may pre-test in the lab the interventions that will be very costly in the field and get a rough idea what will work and what will be just a waste of money.

Methods

The author decided to follow up on a field experiment that was carried out in 2005 in Austria (Fellner et al., 2013) and see if the Czech student subjects would be able to accurately predict the outcomes. She designed, programmed and carried out the laboratory experiment and analyzed the data. In my opinion the design and programming parts were very carefully executed and the author must have spent quite some time on that. The data is then analyzed in the way that was employed in the NBER working paper by Della Vigna & Pope (2016) but is not restricted by that.

Literature

The literature review is done well, it is obvious that the author knows the current literature and is able to connect different parts of economic science into a coherent picture. She focuses on the framing effect since this was the main type of manipulation in Fellner et al. (2013) paper so the reader can easily orient herself in this type of interventions as well as in this paper-in-the-spotlight. I have no objections.

Manuscript form

The thesis is written in nice English and fulfills all requirements that are needed: citations are perfect, tables and graphs well present the findings and overall the look is professional.

Overall, Kateřina did an excellent job and it was pleasure to supervise her again. As a question for the defense I suggest the following:

- (i) Do you think that using general population or professional psychologists would yield different results than you get with the student sample?
- (ii) Why do you think the manipulations "social norm" and "moral appeal" actually decrease the response rate?
- (iii) Could it be that providing partial feedback would increase the accuracy? By partial feedback I mean if the procedure of forecasting was divided into two parts, say T2-T3 first, then giving them feedback about accuracy of their forecasts, and then T4-T6).

I suggest the committee grade 1 (výborně).

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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)	27
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	19
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	96
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *PhDr. Lubomír Cingl, Ph.D.*

DATE OF EVALUATION: *June 14, 2017*



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