Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	**Jungin Yoon**
Advisor:	**Doc. PhDr. Julie Chytilová, Ph.D.**
Title of the thesis:	**What are the determinants of youth happiness?**

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

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Contribution

In her bachelor thesis, Jungin studies a large set of potential determinants of life satisfaction/happiness. Thus, the thesis contributes to the rich and still growing literature focusing on this topic. The novel feature of the thesis is that it focuses on a specific subject pool – youth in South Korea. This is a very interesting context, given the fast economic growth on one hand but extremelly low levels of life satisfaction and high suicide rates among young people on the other hand. Jungin includes in the analyses a wide set of potentially relevant variables – besided individual characteristics also various types of information about family, peers and school environment.

Methods

At the beginning, the thesis provides useful description of the context of South Korea, the economic situation and the issue of low youth happiness. It is complemented by many interesting facts and the whole part nicely motivates the thesis. In the empirical analysis, Jungin uses appropriate econometric methods which are typically used in studies focusing on the determinants of happiness. I want to appreciate that besided OLS she also used ordered probit model as a robustness check.

Literature

The thesis provides a literature review on determinants of happiness with the focus on children and youth samples. Also, it provides a review of a few studies which used the same dataset to study determinants of life satisfaction and clarifies how it contributes to this limited literature. The author has a good knowledge of the relevant literature and refers to it properly.

Manuscript form

Overall, the thesis is clearly structured into several parts. However, at some places the text is somewhat hard to follow and it might be difficult for the reader to understand the main message. For example, it is difficult to understand the precise definitions of some of the variables. Also, the description of the results is very detailed and it would be worth to structure this part more clearly – starting with or otherwise highlighting the main results. The text also contains a type here and there.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

To sum up, I believe the thesis fulfills the requirements for a bachelor thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, and suggest grade C.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
Contribution (max. 30 points)	20
Methods (max. 30 points)	25
Literature (max. 20 points)	20
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	10
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	**75**
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	C

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Julie Chytilova

DATE OF EVALUATION: May 28, 2018

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Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

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*

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*

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*

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	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F