

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Olga Mironova
Advisor:	doc. Zuzana Havránková
Title of the thesis:	Daylight saving time and traffic safety: Evidence from the Czech Republic

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

## Short summary

I will be brief because Olga Mironova consulted her progress with me regularly, she reacted to my comments and objections swiftly, our cooperation was good and efficient. In consequence I have few objections to the final outcome, which in my opinion is very good and could pass for a dissertation thesis chapter. It took a long time to finish this master's thesis. Olga Mironova is a perfectionist, and for several years she wasn't fully convinced that her analysis was as good as humanly possible. I applaud her for her perseverance and the final result. I think the results are strong enough to be publishable in a solid journal.

## Contribution

This is the first study to estimate the effect of daylight saving time on traffic safety in the Czech Republic. The results have profound implications for policy on this issue following the abolishment of clock shifting (it is not clear, though, whether the "winter" or "summer" time is optimal year-round, and Olga contributes to this debate). The contribution here is clear-cut.

## Methods

Originally I thought a creative application of difference-in-differences could be used in this case, but Olga proved me wrong when we went through the data (which are problematic and feature several breaks, which contributed to the delay in completing this very good master's thesis). I think Olga's final idea, regression discontinuity design (together with the negative binomial regression model) are very well suited to the problem at hand. She thought of the solution herself, and in the thesis she provides, in my opinion, a technically flawless execution of this solution.

## Literature

All the main relevant studies are properly quoted in the thesis. One bibliographical entry is incomplete and there are traces of mixing Oxford and Harvard citation styles. I would warn the committee about more relevant omissions, but I did not find any.

## Manuscript form

The thesis is competently typeset in LaTeX, well formatted, and written in good English. Few minor typos can be found. I appreciate the concise, no-nonsense style that Olga employs.

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## Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

In my view, the thesis fulfills the requirements for a master's thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, I recommend it for the defense and suggest a grade A.

The results of the Urkund analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

A question for thesis defense: Could Olga describe a perfect (but realistic) natural experiment that would allow for the cleanest possible identification of the effect of daylight saving time, or generally the "time policy" of the country, on road safety?

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
Contribution (max. 30 points)	28
Methods (max. 30 points)	29
Literature (max. 20 points)	18
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	19
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>94</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (A – B – C – D – E – F)	<b>A</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** doc. PhDr. Zuzana Havránková, Ph.D.

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** May 13, 2021

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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.*

**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.*

**LITERATURE REVIEW:** *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

**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.*

**Overall grading:**

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