Report on **Bachelor Thesis**

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

Student:	**Jan SVOBODA**
Advisor:	**Barbara Pertold-Gebicka, PhD**
Title of the thesis:	**Position of Minorities in the U.S. Labor Market**

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

Jan's bachelor thesis analyses the topic of ethnic minorities' discrimination. The author derives from a rich literature studying the labor market situation of minorities in the U.S. labor market and appends it with an up-to-date analysis. The main contribution of Jan's work is to document the situation of <u>four different</u> ethnic minorities in the U.S. labor market in the 21st century.

Although this is a bachelor thesis, the work at hand could be presented as a succesful master thesis. It consists of well linked 5 chapters which guide the reader from the theory, through the presentation of stylized facts and formulation of research question to empirical analysis. In the theory section the author proves that he understands the topic of discrimination in economic context. Presentation of the history of migration to the U.S. and statistical data describing the American labor market serve as a motivation for formulation of research questions and a background for further analysis. Literature review is probably the weakest part of the thesis, because it does not discuss the methodological differences among the discussed papers. Nevertheless, also this section shows that the author has studied the topic throughout and understands it very well.

Empirical analysis is the core of this bachelor thesis. In this section Jan demonstrates proficiency in work with data. He has extracted, cleaned, and formatted the large dataset on his own. Based on the literature and the available data, he chosed the proper methods to analyze the situation of ethnic minorities in the labor market: regression of log-wages on ethnicity dummies (and other control variables) augmented with Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition of the differences in earnings between the majority and minority groups. Jan also remembered to control for self-selection to work and uses Heckmenselection model to deal with this issue. While the description of the results of this analysis is a bit too long, it demonstrates full understanding of the econometric methods used.

In my opinion the work by Jan Svoboda is an excelent bachelor thesis and it deserves a distinction from the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences for an extraordinarily good bachelors diploma thesis.

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	17
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	28
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	28
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	16
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**89**
GRADE	**(1 – 2 – 3 – 4)**	**1**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: **Barbara Pertold-Gebicka**

DATE OF EVALUATION: **10.6.2012**

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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	1	= excellent	= výborně
61 – 80	2	= good	= velmi dobře
41 – 60	3	= satisfactory	= dobře
0 – 40	4	= fail	= nedoporučuji k obhajobě