Report on Bachelor Thesis

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

Student:	**Pavlína Jandová**
Advisor:	**PhDr. Wadim Strielkowski, Ph.D.**
Title of the thesis:	**Vztah vzdělání a příjmů migrantů ve Spolkové republice Německo**

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

Pavlina Jandova's bachelor thesis deals with the relationship between education and earnings of immigrants in Germany. It has 60 pages plus 9 pages of appendices and is divided into 4 well-structered chapters, appended by the introduction, bibliography, list of graphs, tables and abbreviations. The work includes proper litearture review and description of the data, methods and discussion of relevant results. The thesis is well-written and structered and bears all prerequisites and requirements one can expect from a rigorous academic paper. The work is original and shows the author's understanding of the topic, her ability to work with the data and formulate and test non-trivial assumptions and hypotheses.

I have to admit that I was impressed by Pavlína's approach to the problématique of immigrant's earnings and returns to education. She picked up the multidisciplinary approach to the economic analysis of migration embedding in her analysis the human capital theory developed by Douglas Massey and other authors. The student showed that she was able to work with research literature, interpret and analyze the results of others and build up her own research questions based on that analysis.

Although the data on migrants are difficult to find and are often unobtainable, Pavlína was able to withhold the temptation of using readily available but incomplete and superfluous data sets (e.g. WB's or OECD's) that so many researchers writing on the economics of migration tend to use for simplicity. Instead, she has painstakingly got her hands on a unique SOEP dataset collected by DIW Berlin (often overcoming lots of red tape on the way). Using this dataset, she was capable of formulating the research questions, analysing the data, testing her hypotheses and interpreting the results.

In her empirical model, Pavlína used variations of the Mincer equation (Mincer, 1974) where the average hourly wage is used as the dependent variable and the vector of various characteristics of workers and employers constitutes explanatory variables. The student ran several statistical models comparing Germans and immigrants and various groups of immigrants between themselves. The outlay of the model and the explanation of variables is very clear and concise, so is the interpretation of the results. Not only the results of all models are clearly presented and discussed (including the results of the tests for heteroscedasticity and multicolinearity), but they are also supported by full results of all estimations in the appendices.

Pavlína's estimations yielded some original and interesting results. For instance, she was able to show that immigrants in Germany earn lower wages in comparisons with ethnic Germans and that years of schooling do matter in building one's career in Germany. Additionally, her results revealed that the return to human capital is higher for men than for women. She also showed that relevant governmental policies (e.g. introducing requalification courses for immigrants, offering free German courses and the like) might have a positive impact on raising migrant's earnings and helping to integrate those people into German society.

Overall, it seems to me that this thesis by far and large overpasses the standards set out for Bachelor theses at the Institute of economic studies, Faculty of social sciences, Charles University in Prague. To me it looks rather like a very good Master thesis or a draft of a well-forged scientific article that, after some slight modifications, might go off for publishing in a research journal. I hope Pavlína would be able to continue her studies in our Master's programme in Economics and I would be more than

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happy to help her with further advanecements of her research topic. I also think that an article or two might be prepared and submitted for publication using the data, empirical approach and material used in her thesis.

In the case of successful defense, I recommend Pavlí na to be given **"výborně" (excellent, 1)** and **„pochvala děkana za vynikající bakalářskou práci"(Dean's special commemoration for excellent Bachelor's thesis)**.

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Literature	(max. 20 points)	19
Methods	(max. 30 points)	28
Contribution	(max. 30 points)	28
Manuscript Form	(max. 20 points)	18
TOTAL POINTS	(max. 100 points)	93
GRADE	(1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: **PhDr. Wadim Strielkowski, Ph.D.**

DATE OF EVALUATION: **10.08.2011**

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Referee's signature