

Report on Master Thesis

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

Student:	Nicholas Tyack
Advisor:	Milan Ščasný, PhD.
Title of the thesis:	The Economic Value of Crop Diversity in the Czech Rep.

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

This thesis is a nice piece of empirical work aiming at preference analysis in the area of crop diversity conservation. Stated preferences for conservation of unspecified (general) crops diversity and for conservation of three different varieties (hops, wine, fruit tree) are analysed by contingent valuation (the double-bounded dichotomous choice), or discrete choice experiments (a sequence of choice tasks), respectively. In both cases, Nicholas is using the state-of-the-art valuation techniques, which are applied to a field in that these non-market valuation methods have not been so far applied and to date as far as I know no benefit estimates have been derived. Research carried out as a part of Nick's master studies is thus contributing significantly to economic literature and has itself large value added.

The thesis is very well structured and written. It consists of seven sections. Section 1 introduces to the problem and research objectives. Section 2 reviews the valuation literature, while next section describes the conservation of crop diversity in the study site. Section 4 describes the method, theoretical and econometric model, the experimental design as used in both CV and DCE, data collection and sampling strategy. Next two sections provide the estimation results and discuss them in wider context, paying special attention to protesting behaviour. Last section concludes. Overall, this thesis is written in high standard, using adequate style and formatting. Most of my comments were reflected in the final version of this thesis.

Both analysis are using original data that were collected through unique survey that was prepared and conducted by Nick himself. In total, 1,414 interviews were conducted in this summer with respondents sampled from general population of the Czech Republic and population of South Morava.

State-of-the-art methodology applied in the new field and using such large and well defined sample have large potential to be published in high quality scientific journal(s). High quality of presented research may be also justified by the fact that Nicholas Tyack has received the research grant from the Grant Agency of Charles University (GAUK No. 910788) from which the data collection was funded. This research also contributed to the Marie Curie-Sklodowska Actions' ECOCEP project.

In the case of successful defence, I recommend „výborně“ (excellent, 1), and suggest considering this thesis for the Faculty Dean award.

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

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

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Milan Ščasný

DATE OF EVALUATION: August 31st, 2016



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