Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	**Jan Hanzal**
Advisor:	**doc. Zuzana Havránková, Ph.D.**
Title of the thesis:	**Socioeconomic predictors of alcohol consumption in the Czech adult population**

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

Short summary

The research question of this thesis is straightforward: which factors are associated with individual alcohol consumption? I appreciate the author's frank acknowledgment that, with the data available in the Czech Republic, it is difficult to establish causality. He nevertheless tries to do that using an Arrelano-Bond estimator. I also appreciate the fact that the author consulted his research with several experts on alcohol consumption and health economics. In consequence, the thesis provides the first credible study on the determinants of alcohol consumption.

Contribution

An analysis of alcohol consumption is obviously interesting for both researchers and policymakers. Since this is the first credible analysis on the topic for the Czech Republic, the value added is clear. A finding that I find particularly interesting (from Table 3.3) is that married people tend to drink much less than unmarried people.

Methods

The thesis does a very good job econometrically: households and time fixed effects are included, standard errors are clustered, in parts of the thesis GMM is used, and it is employed correctly. The author acknowledges the challenges of the analysis at the forefront of the thesis and argues well why the particular method choices were made.

Literature

As far as I can tell, all relevant studies are properly acknowledged. A couple of references seem incomplete, but the items are easily identifiable.

Manuscript form

The thesis is typeset beautifully in LaTeX and written in excellent English. I put forward the structure and language used here: the verbiage is cut to the minimum; the argumentation is logical and clear which makes this thesis a pleasure to read.

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Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

In my view, this is a good MA thesis that fulfills the requirements for a master's thesis at the 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.
Question for defense: what kind of data would you need to produce estimates that arguably capture causal relationships?

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	25
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	27
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	20
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	20
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**92**
GRADE	**(A – B – C – D – E – F)**	**A**

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

DATE OF EVALUATION: *16.8.2022*   Digitally signed, Zuzana Havránková

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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