

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Jan Hrušák</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>doc. PhDr. Martin Gregor, PhD.</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Metal Detecting Ownership and Non-Ownership Motives</b>

## OVERALL ASSESSMENT:

### Short summary

The author attempted to identify motivations for and drivers of the rising trend of metal detection hobby in the Czech Republic. The selection of this topic seems unfortunate and the author does not provide convincing arguments about its importance. Also, the data used are not fit to provide a reliable results.

Nevertheless, the author demonstrates decent analytical capabilities using advanced methods. The author also demonstrated significant determination in data collection efforts and the analysis extent.

### Contribution

It is questionable whether a topic like this is worth scientific examination. Especially, given that the data are only declaratory, applying scientific methods to this topic seems a bit over the top.

The author suggests that due to the rising trend of metal detecting hobby it is important to study it, but ceases to explain why. It remains unclear who should be concerned with the motivations, why and even if the motivations are important, why is it important / useful to analyze them scientifically.

Nevertheless, as this is a bachelor thesis, I believe that the main point is to demonstrate analytical abilities, so the topic plays a secondary role. Unfortunately, the choice seems quite unfortunate.

### Methods

The author uses substantial amount of data that have been scraped from the web. Data quality might be questionable given that the data were scraped from a amateur metal detecting website. Some of the data scraped from the web are provided by its users and its accuracy might be of concern.

The data are then analyzed by a linear probability model which seems to be an appropriate choice for the purpose.

There is a significant drawback of the data which compromises the results. As the main hypothesis is: „With greater individual wealth, the submission rate of finds will be higher“, it is crucial to capture individuals' wealth in the data. However, the study uses only a proxy which is estimated on average wealth in the area of residence. That is arguably not an acceptable approximation to produce any reliable results.

### Literature

Despite limited coverage of the topic in the literature, the author manages to make a thorough review of studies that could be relevant to his topic.

The literature is cited properly.

### Manuscript form

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The author uses good English, uses appropriate formatting and cites properly. Unfortunately, the work is quite lengthy (149 pages) and includes several unnecessary chapters that are irrelevant to the research topic (e.g. history of metal detecting etc.). This makes it challenging to follow and dilutes the main message.

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

In my view, the thesis fulfills the requirements for a bachelor thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, I recommend it for the defense and suggest a grade D. The results of the Urkund analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	11
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	23
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	18
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	17
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>69</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (A – B – C – D – E – F)	<b>D</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** Tomáš Kučera

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** 6.9.2023

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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