

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Bc. Martina Juračková
Advisor:	doc. PhDr. Zuzana Havránková, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Standing Tall Pays Off: A Meta-Analysis of Height Premium

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

## Short summary

According to common wisdom, taller people are paid more, all other things being equal. Supposedly, this fact holds even for fields where height should not be related to productivity. A few years ago, Greg Mankiw, half-jokingly, even proposed to replace income taxes with a height tax: because height is given, height-based taxes would not be distortionary. The main point of Martina Jureckova's thesis is that the effect exists but is much smaller than commonly thought. Still, standing tall pays off. This conclusion is robust and rigorously supported. Causality is analyzed in great detail.

## Contribution

As far as I know, no previous meta-analysis on this topic exists that would correct the literature for publication bias and account for model uncertainty. So this thesis is a novel piece of research, publishable in a solid international journal (though after a long revision process). I stress the work involved in the creation of the new dataset: 1,084 estimates from 67 studies. Martina had to read all these studies, carefully collect the estimates by hand, and for each estimate code dozens of characteristics that capture estimation context. Together, this thesis presents scientific value added combined with hard work and rigorous application of up-to-date statistical methods. The data and code are readily available for replication to anyone, a decision to which I applaud. Well done on all fronts, indeed.

## Methods

Modern meta-analysis methods are used: for example, instrumental variables meta-regression, WAAP, selection model, stem-based model, endogenous kink model, Bayesian model averaging. These models are properly applied. Regarding methodology, it is difficult to want more from a dissertation thesis on meta-analysis.

## Literature

As far as I can tell, all relevant studies are properly cited.

## Manuscript form

The thesis is written in good English and typeset beautifully in LaTeX.

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

This is a fantastic piece of work that, in my opinion, should be awarded.

In my view, the thesis 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 plagiarism software analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

Question for defense: the height effect seems to be systematically larger in Africa. Could you provide more details on the potential reasons?

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
Contribution (max. 30 points)	29
Methods (max. 30 points)	30
Literature (max. 20 points)	20
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	19
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>98</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (A – B – C – D – E – F)	<b>A</b>

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

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** 17.8.2023

Digitally signed, Zuzana Havrankova

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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