

# Opponent's Report on Dissertation Thesis

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Author:	<b>Olha Khymych</b>
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Title of the Thesis:	Residential energy consumption in Ukraine: Does energy price matter for energy savings?
Type of Defense:	<b>DEFENSE</b>
Date of Pre-Defense	April 26, 2023
Opponent:	Souvik Datta PhD (University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland)

Address the following questions in your report, please:

- a) Can you recognize an original contribution of the author?
- b) Is the thesis based on relevant references?
- c) Is the thesis defensible at your home institution or another respected institution where you gave lectures?
- d) Do the results of the thesis allow their publication in a respected economic journal?
- e) Are there any additional major comments on what should be improved?
- f) What is your overall assessment of the thesis? (a) I recommend the thesis for defense without substantial changes, (b) the thesis can be defended after revision indicated in my comments, (c) not-defensible in this form.

*(Note: The report should be at least 2 pages long.)*

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- a) From my original report: The thesis analyses Ukraine's residential demand for energy by using information on gas and electricity demand as well as investment in energy-efficient renovations. The chapters contribute to the existing literature on the price sensitivity of energy demand and the factors that affect energy-efficient renovations. The case of Ukraine has not been extensively analysed much in the literature and the chapters provide an original perspective of the situation in Ukraine with well-established econometric methods. The results are in line with the findings of other studies in this field.
- b) Yes, the thesis contains, to the best of my knowledge, the relevant references.
- c) Yes, the thesis would be defensible at an institution that awards PhD degrees.
- d) Two chapters have already been published in reputed field journals and the third main chapter will, most likely, be published in a field journal.
- e) In my view, my comments from my original report have been addressed. I had two main concerns in my original report. First, the discussion on the subsidy variable was insufficient. The reason as to why the logarithm of the subsidy was chosen was not clear to me. The latest version of the thesis also does not have a discussion as to why the log transformation was chosen and I would like to still a brief discussion on this.

Otherwise, the rest of the discussion on the subsidy variable is sufficient for me. Secondly, the discussion on the instruments was not detailed enough. The latest version of the thesis has corrected this, and I am satisfied with the current description. These were my main comments, and the author has responded to these criticisms. I do not have any further major comments to make on the current version of the dissertation.

- f) I recommend the thesis for defence without any substantial changes.

Date:	29. November, 2023
Opponent's Signature:	
Opponent's Affiliation:	Souvik Datta PhD (University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland)