

MASTER'S THESIS EXAMINER REPORT

IEPS – International Economic and Political Studies

Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Thesis title:	Social Enterprise-Centered Varieties of Capitalism: How does the variant of capitalism impact the social enterprise sector?
Student's name:	Justin Lopinski
Referee's name:	PhDr. Jiří Schwarz, Ph.D.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Contribution and argument (quality of research and analysis, originality)	50	48
	Research question (definition of objectives, plausibility of hypotheses)	15	15
	Theoretical framework (methods relevant to the research question)	15	13
<i>Total</i>		80	76
Minor Criteria			
	Sources, literature	10	10
	Presentation (language, style, cohesion)	5	4
	Manuscript form (structure, logical coherence, layout, tables, figures)	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	19
TOTAL		100	95

Plagiarism-check (Turnitin) match score: 19%

All the instances of text being similar to other sources are accompanied by correct references. These are either citations, which are put correctly inside quotation marks, or definitions of the used variables or concepts. In both cases Justin correctly provide references to the primary sources.

Reviewer's commentary according to the above criteria (min. 1800 characters including spaces when recommending a passing grade, min. 2500 characters including spaces when recommending a failing grade):

Justin's thesis makes a significant contribution to understanding the relationship between variants of capitalism and the social enterprise sector. Particularly in focusing on both formal and informal institutions' impact on social entrepreneurship, and also by examining and comparing the different impact of institutions on both commercial and social enterprises. The argument is well-constructed, providing insightful analysis and drawing upon an extensive range of literature. The thesis effectively employs empirical methods.

The thesis presents clearly defined research questions, focusing on the influence of capitalism variants on social entrepreneurship, the effects of targeted entrepreneurship promotion efforts, and the role of societal values in fostering social enterprise environments. These questions are relevant and address a significant gap in existing literature. The hypotheses formulated are plausible, well-structured, and directly related to the theoretical framework, providing a coherent basis for the subsequent analysis.

The theoretical framework is robust, drawing on the varieties of capitalism literature and integrating it with the dynamics of the social enterprise sector. The methods selected are appropriate for the research questions and contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the relationships being examined. Even though the cross-sectional approach may not fully capture the dynamic and evolving nature of the social enterprise sector in different varieties of capitalism, I understand the data limitations.

The thesis demonstrates a thorough engagement with relevant literature. The literature review is comprehensive, demonstrating a deep understanding of the subject matter. The sources are well-chosen, relevant, and contribute significantly to the development of the argument.

The thesis is well-written, with clear and concise language. The style is academically rigorous, maintaining a formal tone throughout. The document is cohesive, with each section logically flowing into the next, contributing to an overall argument that is easy to follow and understand. The only imperfection is that certain sections could be more tightly focused to enhance readability and impact. Reducing redundancies and focusing on key arguments could streamline the narrative.

But in general, the structure of the thesis is logical and well-organized, facilitating a clear presentation of the research. The use of tables and figures effectively aids in illustrating key points and findings. The manuscript maintains logical coherence throughout, with each part building upon the last to support the overall thesis.

To conclude, I believe that Justin's thesis is a commendable piece of scholarly work that makes a valuable contribution to the fields of economics and political economy.

Proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F): A

Suggested questions for the defence are:

1. In your thesis, you have established a clear theoretical framework linking the varieties of capitalism to the social enterprise sector. Could you discuss any theoretical challenges or limitations you encountered in aligning these two fields? Additionally, are there aspects of the theory that you believe require further development or exploration in future research?
2. Considering your findings, how do you envision them impacting the real-world functioning of social enterprises within different capitalist systems? Could you elaborate on specific policy recommendations that could be derived from your research to support the growth and effectiveness of social enterprises in varying economic environments?

I recommend the thesis for final defence.

Referee Signature

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	A	= outstanding (high honor)
81 – 90	B	= superior (honor)
71 – 80	C	= good
61 – 70	D	= satisfactory
51 – 60	E	= low pass at a margin of failure
0 – 50	F	= failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence.