

Report on Bachelor Thesis

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

Student:	Daniela Javůrková
Advisor:	Mgr. Barbara Pertold-Gebicka, M.A., Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Language Skills and Employability: The Case of Ukrainian Refugees in the Czech Republic

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

Short summary

In her thesis, Daniela uses a randomized correspondence experiment to evaluate the extent to which Czech language skills affect the job prospects of Ukrainian refugees. To test her hypotheses, she designs fictitious curricula vitae and responds to job postings online in the Czech Republic. Interestingly, she finds no statistically significant differences in callback rates. However, the point estimates suggest a preference for Ukrainian applicants with A2-level Czech over those with B2-level Czech, which is at odds with the original hypothesis.

Contribution

Daniela's thesis offers a distinct value-added contribution to the existing literature, which is clearly communicated. The main contribution lies in its focus on the Czech Republic and the topic of language skills of immigrants.

For clarity, I would suggest including an indication that the study is experimental in the thesis title.

Methods

The experimental design is complex, and both the design and execution are clearly and sufficiently described. However, I would have appreciated a discussion on the power analysis. Daniela also addresses the ethical aspects of the experimental research in Section 4.2.5. Importantly, her experiment received approval from the FSV Commission for Ethics in Research, which aligns with good practices in experimental literature. In the Results section, the author conducts several randomization checks to verify whether the experiment was ideally executed. The methodology and analysis appear to be well-executed without any flaws.

Literature

The literature review is very up-to-date and broad, summarizing the similar experiments. The thesis demonstrates the author's full understanding and command of recent literature. Additionally, Daniela cites relevant sources appropriately.

I found only one reference in the Reference list that was incomplete, as the volume, issue number, and page numbers were missing.

- Schmaus, M. (2019): "Ethnic Differences in Labour Market Outcomes - The Role of Language-Based Discrimination." *European Sociological Review* .

Manuscript form

The text is well-structured and written in clear English. The table descriptions are thorough, and the figures are of high quality and well-presented. The text effectively references graphs and tables and includes a comprehensive bibliography. Overall, the thesis is easy and enjoyable to read.

I only noticed that the Czech abstract is not a direct translation of the English one.

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Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

Designing and conducting an original experiment is always a challenging task, as the author must consider many aspects to accurately capture the causal effect. Collecting original data in the field is even more exhausting and time-consuming. In my opinion, Daniela handles this task very well. Her Bachelor thesis is comprehensive, easy to read, and very interesting.

The results of the Turnitin analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

In my view, Daniela did an excellent job, and her thesis meets the requirements for a Bachelor thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University. I recommend it for defense and suggest a grade of A.

Finally, I suggest the following question for the discussion during the defense: How significant is the role of the sample size with respect to the results?

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	96
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	A

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *Mgr. Kateřina Chadimová*

DATE OF EVALUATION: 26. 8. 2024

*Digitálně podepsáno (26. 8. 2024)
Kateřina Chadimová*

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