Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Bc. Tomáš Suchomel
Advisor:	Mgr. Josef Bajzík
Title of the thesis:	Lawsuit Events and Stock Returns: A Meta-Analysis

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

Short summary: The author follows the newest methodology for meta-analysis and study the effect of lawsuit events on stock returns. I find the topic studied as crucial and the findings of the thesis very important. As I wrote several meta-analyses myself, and discussed with Tomas his data and work regularly as a supervisor, I have to say that the dataset collected is of the highest quality and that I think Tomas did a great work on it. On the other hand, his time planning was a bit worse, but finally he did everything on time.

Contribution: To my knowledge, this area is untouched by meta-analysis so far, only meta-analytical research done in this area was conducted by de Batz & Kočenda (2023), but I think Tomas's adresses the possible similarities, and explain his significant contribution brillantly. Finally, he collected 882 estimates from 64 studies and control for more than 50 research characteristics. He finds out that the effects of class-action lawsuits are stronger, investors react more positively to news of a lawsuit being resolved than to news of a lawsuit being filed, and, apart from the length of the announcement period, all decisions defining event study methodology can be considered minor modeling choices. All of these findings are very crucial for further research in this area.

Methods: The author used the state-of-art method for meta-analysis. He analyzes the publication bias via graphical and formal tests. He includes even the modern non-parametrical methods in search for the true effect. Then the heterogeneity is scrutinize by BMA and FMA and did several robustness checks.

Literature: Author cites all relevant literature with respect to the topic and given methodology. He even addresses the issues in the article he wants to supersede. On the other hand, for example, citation de Batz & Kočenda (2023) should start with the capital letter at the beginning of the sentence (p. 16).

Manuscript form: I am bit concerned by the distribution of the amount of text between the diverse parts of the thesis. Tomas obviously try to sell his hard work with the data, which he surely underwent. But, on the other hand, I think in such a case, there should be more space for results discussion and the conclusion. Or maybe, it would be sufficient to shorten the data collection part and the redundant text postpone to the appendix. Besides, only thing I would mention regarding manusript form is, that some aspects of heterogeneity are discussed much more thoroughly than others (for example, Event Windows vs Specific industry in the part 3, p.26-28).

Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

Based on my comments above I have only one question for the defence:
1. What do you consider as the biggest contribution of your thesis? You mentioned several defendable, but I am interested in the one you personally see as the most contributiong to the literature, research etc.

From my perspective, the thesis fulfills the requirements for a master thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, I recommend it for the defense and suggest a grade A. Besides the results of the Urkund analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	28
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	30
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	20
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	17
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**95**
GRADE	**(A – B – C – D – E – F)**	**A**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Josef Bajzík

DATE OF EVALUATION: 21. 8. 2024

Digitálně podepsáno (21. 8. 2024)
Josef Bajzík

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Referee Signature

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