Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	**Bc. Nigina Baydadaeva**
Advisor:	**Doc. PhDr. Zuzana Havránková, Ph.D.**
Title of the thesis:	**How Family Size Affects Parents' Labour Market Outcomes: A Meta-Analysis**

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

Short summary

The thesis focuses on the effect of parenthood on the labor market outcomes of mothers and fathers. Because it is hard to compare the results of individual studies directly, they are recomputed to partial correlation coefficients. Prior to any correction, the data are consistent with the intuitive hypothesis that parenthood hurts women but helps men in the labor market. After correction for publication bias and accounting for methodology, however, the effects virtually disappear. Some evidence remains for a negative effect for women.

Contribution

This is the first meta-analysis on this topic that correctly controls for publication bias and model uncertainty. It is the best evidence we have on the effect of parenthood on labor market outcomes. As such, a paper based on the thesis could be published in a solid international journal. I appreciate the care with which the author handles identification problems in the literature (and also in the meta-analysis per se). A common criticism of meta-analysis is that estimates of different quality are treated indiscriminately. The BMA and best-practice sections of the thesis are a good response to this criticism, because there more weight is placed on arguably better identified estimates. Overall, therefore, the results are plausible.

Methods

The thesis uses modern meta-analysis methods and also modern quasi-experimental methods. The use of different functions of sample size as an instrument for standard error in meta-analysis is clever (and important given the mechanical relationship between estimates and standard errors that arises because of the transformation to a standard metric). Note that many of the techniques employed, such as Bayesian model averaging and the nonlinear techniques to account for publication bias, go well beyond the econometrics courses taught at the IES. So the author must be congratulated on learning these advanced methods herself.

Literature

The relevant literature is covered well.

Manuscript form

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The paper is typeset nicely in LaTeX and written in very good English. There are a few typos (e.g. "musk" in the abstract) but overall the form of the thesis is excellent.

Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

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. Because the author delivers much more than can be expected of an MA student, I believe the thesis should be awarded. The results of the plagiarism software analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

Question for defense: What methodological problems arise in meta-analysis when you focus on partial correlation coefficients?

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
Contribution *(max. 30 points)*	28
Methods *(max. 30 points)*	28
Literature *(max. 20 points)*	20
Manuscript Form *(max. 20 points)*	19
TOTAL POINTS *(max. 100 points)*	**95**
GRADE **(A – B – C – D – E – F)**	A*

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

DATE OF EVALUATION: **13.8.2024**   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**