Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Lukáš Tóth
Advisor:	Doc. Ing. Pavel Mertlík CSc.
Title of the thesis:	Current Economics Crisis in the Works of Paul R. Krugman and Joseph E. Stiglitz

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

The work covers multiple topics connected with current crises, as seen by authors mentioned in title. This is both its strength and weakness - it is quite a challenge to cover issues of bailouts, US indebtness, fiscal stimulus efficiency and many others on less than 50 pages. The text has been written with erudition high above average, there are however several problems of its form which undermine its quality (in my opinion a bit unnecessarily). Despite of below mentioned problems, the standard of the work is well above average, therefore I give it mark 1-2.

Three points meant as constructive critique are stated below:

- When presenting own thougts, good reasoning behind these *must* be thoroughly provided (unlike it is done for example at p21 or p31). Scientific text is not a place for expressing mere opinions. Even though many of these are presented in accordance with Krugman or Stiglitz thoughts, which puts them on more solid ground – then they however should be left out completely, while leaving relevant quotations.

- Author shows considerable insight into many presented topics, he however sometimes fails to deliver intended message either due to being too schematic, or due to phrasing which could often be thought through more carefully. Whereas the cause of first might be seen as necessary due to choice of very broad topic, the second seems to be unnecessary deficiency of otherwise nice work. To point out one example of each: author often uses unclear terms in one-shot statements - such as *social institutional fabric distruption* (p18), and seems to contradict himself - see *mexico is not growing x mexico is growing* (p22).

- Overall the text seems to be „stitched with a hot needle", and would need some additional work to make a good (and perhaps even well publishable) thesis. In particular more proofreading could have been done – to eliminate the obvious mistakes present in the text as well as some deeper problems addressed above.

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	20
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	20
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	25
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	10
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**75**
GRADE	**(1 – 2 – 3 – 4)**	**1-2**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *PhDr. Ing. Jiří Skuhrovec*

DATE OF EVALUATION: *10.6.2010*

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Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

Strong   *Average*   *Weak*
20   *10*   *0*

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.*

Strong   *Average*   *Weak*
30   *15*   *0*

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.*

Strong   *Average*   *Weak*
30   *15*   *0*

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.*

Strong   *Average*   *Weak*
20   *10*   *0*

Overall grading:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE		
81 – 100	1	= excellent	= výborně
61 – 80	2	= good	= velmi dobře
41 – 60	3	= satisfactory	= dobře
0 – 40	4	= fail	= nedoporučuji k obhajobě