



INTERNATIONAL HEALTH & SOCIAL MANAGEMENT - 2012

evaluation of the master thesis.

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EVALUATION OF THE MASTER THESIS

Master thesis title:	Social Determinants of Health and Economy: the Global Financial Crisis 2007/08 and its impact on well-being of Europeans		
Examinee:	Samuel Godot Scheier	Student ID number:	1210360016
Supervisor:	FH-Prof. Dr. Nils Mevenkamp	Overall Grade:	Good (2)

SCORES – OVERALL GRADING SCALE:

100 – 90	excellent (1)
89 – 80	good (2)
79 – 70	satisfactory (3)
69 – 60	sufficient (4)
59 – 0	insufficient (5)

City, Date: August 18th, 2014

Signature: 
FH-Prof. Dr. Nils Mevenkamp

EVALUATION CRITERIA		REMARKS	POINTS (0-100)	FACTOR OF WEIGHTING	POINTS X WEIGHTING
<i>Quality regarding content</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific foundation Quality of used references; adequacy of literature review Practical relevance Summary and reflection Individual contribution and independence in development of thesis 			95	0,5	47,5
<i>Structural quality</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure and outline (clear, logical, comprehensible) Congruency of objective, layout and argumentation Approach to problem solving (process, applied method) Linkage of theory and practice 			70	0,3	21
<i>Formal quality</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent is consistent with specifications Correct and complete mode of citation Style and language Overall impression 			85	0,2	17
FINAL GRADE				1,0	86

OVERALL EVALUATION

For the discussion of this short text it is important to know that it was written as a paper for journal publication from the start. Thus, the final thesis represents neither more nor less than a draft for immediate submission. This explains the given length of the text as well as its raw format.

The Author has worked through a huge body of high quality literature and condensed his findings into an initial summary of less than two pages. From this short introduction he derives the objective "to investigate the impact of the economic crisis on individual well-being in different welfare regimes as represented by different countries and to explain the differences observed" (2) In section 2 "Materials and Methods" he refines this objective by introducing the concept of welfare regimes. However, the whole discussion of welfare systems and their classification – which certainly underlines the author's good understanding of his topic – should have better been placed in the introductory literature review (2-4).

Unfortunately, the documentation of the data used is quite poor as the author neither discusses the choice of indicators used (i.e. Tab. 4) nor does he explain the computation of the dependent variables in the regression model as two year gradients rather than cross sectional data (data could be easily misinterpreted as such).

The results section starts with descriptive yet very instructive findings with respect to subjective health status and economic development at country level (4-9). However, the following discussion of the logistic regression model (9ff) does not even come close to this descriptive part. Finally, the author gets a bit lost in his model parameters (13-16). Accordingly, the discussion has some weaker parts when interpreting the odd ratios, e.g. it should read "... retired people defined one third as often ..." rather than "... one third of retired people defined ...". Nonetheless, the author finishes with a clear and well-argued conclusion which is worth reading.

The whole text has several formal weaknesses. Most of the tables lack full references to the data used, some of them (e.g. Tab. 5, 8) being hardly understandable due to the intensive use of unexplained abbreviations. At p. 5 it should read percentage points rather than percentages. Some tables (e.g. Tab. 2) might become more vivid by using sparklines.

Besides these limitations the study gives proof of the author's ability of scientific paper writing and participating in the academic discussion. The whole text is argued fluently as the author knows the current discussion very well. With some minor changes this text will make a decisive contribution at the cutting edge of research on economic impact on population health. I there for grade this thesis with

86% (good).