How to write your thesis at the Chair of International Economics and Macroeconomics

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Agenda

- General information
- Qualitative und quantitative research
- Literature- and data-search
- Thesis structure and setup
- Evaluation criteria
- Further reading
General Information – Homepage

Welcome,
to the sites of the Chair of International Economics & Macroeconomics

Prof. Dr. Bernard Michael Gilroy
# General information – Process

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<th>Kick-off event</th>
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<td>General remarks</td>
<td>Arrangement consultation appointment with your respective adviser</td>
<td>The first referee reads the thesis and grades it</td>
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<td>Procedure</td>
<td>Clarification of questions with regard to contents and methodology</td>
<td>50% of the overall grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualitative und quantitative research</td>
<td>The examination office is responsible for questions regarding official appointments and deadlines</td>
<td>The second referee reads the thesis and grades it, too</td>
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<td>Literature- and data-search</td>
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<td>50% of the overall grade</td>
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<td>Q+A</td>
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<td>Overall grade and referee report will be sent to the examination office</td>
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General Information - Formalities

- The following has to be submitted to the examination office:
  - 1 hardback version of your thesis
  - 1 CD with an electronic version of your thesis (Please label the CD with your name, matriculation number, the title of the thesis)
Qualitative and Quantitative Research

**Qualitative Research**

- Bachelor only
  - Search for literature
  - Grounded Theory
  - Comparative case studies
  - Surveys, interviews, text analysis
  - Software: Excel, SPSS, ...
  - NOT: Pure repetition of the literature!

**Quantitative Research**

- Empirically
  - Search for literature
  - Regression, ANOVA, discriminant analysis, factor analysis, ...
  - Data bases, perhaps surveys/interviews
  - Software: Excel, SPSS, R, Python, Stata, MATLAB/Octave, ...

- Analytically
  - Search for literature
  - Model analysis
  - Model modification
  - Comparative static
  - Graphical depiction
  - Software: LaTeX, Gnuplot, Microsoft Visio, Excel, R, MATLAB/Octave, Dynare, Python, Stata, ...

*normally inductive, theory-generating*

*deductive, theory-proving*

*inductive/deductive*
Literature- and data-search: Literature-search I
Literature- and data-search: Literature-search II

- Social Science Research Network (SSRN)
Literature- and data-search: Literature-search III

- Ideas RePEc
Literature- and data-search: Literature-search IV

- https://scholar.google.de/
  - Direct citation possible

- https://scholar.google.de/scholar?hl=de&as_sdt=0%2C5&q=gilroy+the+impact+of+monetary+policy&btnG=&oq=gilroy+the+impact+of+monetary+policy%23
  - MLA
  - APA
  - ISO 690
Literature- and data-search: Inspection and Analysis

- Read abstract, introduction and conclusion (perhaps results part)
- Use several and also different sources for the same topic
- Show honesty with regard to the found literature! Citation!
  - Incorrect handling of intellectual property is a severe violation of the common mode of practice in academic writing and can lead the examiner to grade the thesis as insufficient (fail)!

- Rating the quality of the found literature
  - Handelsblatt Journal Ranking VWL
  - VHB Jourqual 2: www.vhbonline.org
Literature- and data-search : Data-search I

World Bank Open Data
Free and open access to global development data

Search data e.g. GDP, population, Indonesia

Browse by Country or Indicator

MOST RECENT

Are women and youth employment rates a matter of survey design and data quality?  
Valentina Cosca, Sam Desiere, Oct 07, 2019

85% of Africans live on less than $5.50 per day  
R. Andres Castaneda Aguilar, Dean Mitchell Jolliffe, Tony Fjus, Christoph Lahnre, Espen Beer Pryds, Oct 03, 2019

Accessing International Debt Statistics using the World Bank API  
Oct 02, 2019

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN WITH OPEN DATA

Poverty headcount ratio at $1.90 a day (2011 PPP) (% of population)

Extreme Poverty
The proportion of the world's population living in extreme poverty has dropped significantly

INTERNATIONAL DEBT STATISTICS
2020

International Debt Statistics 2020
Oct 02, 2019
Literature- and data-search: Data-search II

Download, graph, and track 590,000 US and international time series from 87 sources.

Search FRED data e.g., gdp, inflation, unemployment

Browse data by Tag, Category, Release, Source, Release Calendar or Get Help

FRED News
- FRED Adds Sahn Rate Recession Indicators
- Russell Data To Be Removed from FRED

FRED Blog
- The price of a BLT
- Research News

is fear chilling the economy?

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items
+1.8 % Chg. from Yr. Ago on Aug 2019

Real Gross Domestic Product
2.0 % Chg. from Preceding Period on Q2 2019

Industrial Production Index
-0.6 % Chg. on Aug 2019

10-Year Treasury Constant Maturity Rate
1.52 % on 2019-10-04

U.S. / Euro Foreign Exchange Rate
1.0974 U.S. $ to 1 Euro on 2019-10-04

Civilian Unemployment Rate
3.5 % on Sep 2019

All Employees: Total Nonfarm Payrolls
+136 Chg., Thous. of Persons on Sep 2019

4-Week Moving Average of Initial Claims
212500 on 2019-09-28
Literature- and data-search : Data-search III

- **CHELEM**
  - Harmonized data for the estimation of GNI, population, GDP and commodities for each country from 1980 to 2015.

- **LANGC**
  - Languages provide new series for Common Official Language (COL), Common Spoken Language (CSL), Common Native Language (CNL) for 195 countries.

- **MARKET PROFILES**
  - Market Proportions offer six distinct indices of proximity to world markets for more than 150 countries.

- **MACROECONOMICS**
  - New data and DRI databases.
  - Compiled by the database developer on the CEPII in 2000 to present the world economy in the long term.

**series**
- TRADE: Harmonized international trade data, values and quantities traded for more than 200 countries, starting in 1994. Available for free.

**trade**
- Harmonized international trade data (HS), bilateral data and aggregate data in 2014.

**market access**
- Market Access Map (MAMap) provides a differentiated, exhaustive and bilateral measurement of applied tariff duties. It takes into account agreements and trade preferences, thereby increasing accuracy. The source data is from the WTO.
Literature- and data-search : Data-search IV

- Write down the data sources of other authors, so that you know where to find different types of data!!!

- Getting to data bases: www.ub.uni-paderborn.de
  => eBibliothek => Datenbanken => Wirtschaftswissenschaften

- Other data bases (often accessible via the internet network of the university, e.g. World Bank, International Monetary Fund, OECD, UN-Organizations, ...)

- Other secondary data
  - Statistical yearbooks (e.g. IMF: International Financial Statistics Yearbook)
  - Annual financial statements

- Primary data
  - (partly-)structured surveys
  - (partly-)structured interviews
Thesis structure

- Introduction
  - Introducing generally and narrowing down the topic/focus
  - Motivation and goal setting
  - Structure/further proceeding of the thesis

- Literature review
  - Essential sources, as far as relevant for the progress (own part/contribution) of the thesis
  - What has been already addressed, what has not yet been addressed => Research gap, which your thesis fills
  - Definition and distinction of terms/concepts

- Main part
  - Theoretical/empirical/mathematical approach

- Summary and conclusions

- Do not use too many subsections (2 levels should normally suffice)
  - Every section needs text!
Some Hints

- Literature-search
  - From general to specific
  - What has already been covered with regard to your topic? ⇒ Systematic overview
  - What is missing with regard to your topic?
  - Why is the topic and the filling of the research gap relevant?

  ➢ Which specific question or problem do you solve or answer with your thesis?
  ➢ What does the reader find out in your thesis that he does not find elsewhere?
  ➢ How or with which method do you answer/solve your stated question/problem?

- Definition and distinction of central terms/concepts
  - Analysis of definitions from the literature and extraction of constitutive characteristics
  - Synthesis to a definition you can work with
Evaluation of the thesis

- Structure and outline of the thesis
- How deep and wide has the topic been covered
- Content
- Innovation (creativity, further aspects)
- Evaluation and incorporation of the literature
- Language (scientific style, readability)
- Formal design (formal elaboration, citation style, typing errors, cleanness)
Further Reading


Further Reading


Further Reading


