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

Prof. Dr. Bernard M. Gilroy, Dr. Christian Peitz, Nico Stoeckmann
Agenda

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

**Kick-off event**
- General remarks
- Procedure
- Qualitative und quantitative research
- Literature- and data-search
- Q+A

**Support**
- Arrangement consultation appointment with your respective adviser
- Clarification of questions with regard to contents and methodology
- The examination office is responsible for questions regarding official appointments and deadlines

**Evaluation**
- The first referee reads the thesis and grades it
  - 50% of the overall grade
- The second referee reads the thesis and grades it, too
  - 50% of the overall grade
- Overall grade and referee report will be sent to the examination office
General Information - Formalities

- The following has to be submitted to the examination office:
  - 2 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)
  - Please get in contact with the examination office during the covid-19 lockdown for official changes in handling the submission
### 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!

**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**

#### Quantitative Research
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/](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](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

INTERNATIONAL DEBT STATISTICS
2020

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
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

Get economic data - anytime, anywhere.
Available on the iTunes App Store and on Google Play.

FRED Economic Data

- Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items
  +1.4 % 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 Chgl, Thous. of Persons on Sep 2019
- 4-Week Moving Average of Initial Claims
  212,500 on 2019-09-28
Literature- and data-search : Data-search III
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


