

REFEREE'S REVIEW

Program:	Master in International Business
Student:	Ekaterina Popova
Title of thesis:	Cross-Cultural Differences Influence Analysis on Corruption Level Reduction Using Experimental Gaming

Justification of the topic choice. Accuracy in defining the aim and objectives of the thesis. Justification of the topic choice; accuracy in defining the aim and tasks of the thesis; originality of the topic and the extent to which it was covered; alignment of the thesis' topic, aim and objectives.	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	3	2
Structure and logic of the text flow. Logic of research; full scope of the thesis; alignment of thesis' structural parts, i.e. theoretical and empirical parts.	<u>5</u>	4	3	2
Quality of analytical approach and quality of offered solution to the research objectives. Adequacy of objectives coverage; ability to formulate and convey the research problem; ability to offer options for its solution; application of the latest trends in relevant research are for the set objectives.	<u>5</u>	4	3	2
Quality of data gathering and description. Quality of selecting research tools and methods; data validity adequacy; adequacy of used data for chosen research tools and methods; completeness and relevance of the list of references.	<u>5</u>	4	3	2
Scientific aspect of the thesis. Independent scientific thinking in solving the set problem/objectives; the extent to which the student contributed to selecting and justifying the research model (conceptual and/or quantitative), developing methodology/approach to set objectives.	<u>5</u>	4	3	2
Practical/applied nature of research. Extent to which the theoretical background is related to the international or Russian managerial practice; development of applied recommendations; justification and interpretation of the empirical/applied results.	<u>5</u>	4	3	2
Quality of thesis layout. Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defense, correct layout of tables, figures, references.	<u>5</u>	4	3	2

Each item above is evaluated on the following scale, as applicable: 5 = excellent, 4 = good, 3 = satisfactory, 2 = poor.

Additional comments:

The referred paper examines corruption and its influence on decision making process, while focusing on culture as one of the factors influencing corruption interaction within a specific country. The author gives a very detailed description of existing research on the investigated issue, suggests a new approach to interpretation of culture influence on corruption interaction, and develops a profound approach to analyse such influence. The text is well structured, all objectives are clearly defined and conclusions are perfectly in line with the aims. The author suggests her own method to reveal cross-cultural differences in corruption interactions, tests this method in practice, and suggests further developments of the method itself, as well as its possible application in more profound research.

However, the content of the thesis is not in line with its title. The title suggests a much more profound and broader research than the one performed. The thesis is suggesting a new methodology, testing it, revealing its limitations and scope of application, but it does not contain analysis of how cross cultural differences influence corruption level reduction.

Master thesis of **Ekaterina Popova** meets the requirements of Master in International Business program, and deserves an "excellent" grade, thus the author can be given the desired degree.

Date: September 25, 2011

Referee: Anna E. Loukianova,

Associate Professor

Graduate School of Management

St. Petersburg University

