

Doctoral thesis reviewer assessment

Author: Ing. Mark Ratilla

Title: Modelling the antecedents of intention to engage in the sharing economy: Evidence from a less-developed country

Dissertation thesis topicality

The theme of the dissertation thesis is highly topical in several aspects. First, for the emerging area itself (sharing economy), for the research targeting understudied factors related to the theme and for the region the research was realized due to the future potential expansion of the investigated phenomenon. It can be concluded that the author has succeeded in choosing a topic that is more than very appropriate and necessary to explore for many reasons. This is not so frequent at the doctoral level.

Problem solving procedure and results of dissertation thesis with specific contribution of the student

The problem solving procedure is excellent. If I were to summarize the biggest positives of the procedure and the work, they include:

- a clear definition of the research gaps;
- framing the research problems in context, i.e. country and the environmental conditions potentially influencing the research (very often missing in doctoral theses);
- precisely formulated research objectives backed by brilliant arguments;
- high-coherence text, which – although not directly related to procedure - is essential for easy understanding of the steps;
- outstanding literature review with all features of the high quality used for the hypotheses formulation and for the development of the conceptual model;
- clearly described sampling, questionnaire development and data analysis procedure in the Methodology chapter;
- excellently presented and detailed and well commented analysis results.

I would like to mention also some shortcomings. However, in the case of this excellent work it is rather a subtle notice for the author - all shortcomings can be quickly and easily removed. The notice relates to the possible publication of results with a high probability of success of acceptance of the articles. Some shortcomings are:

- for such a rapidly developing area it is less appropriate to provide statistics older than 3 years (e.g. Nielsen (2014) global survey);
- figure 7 (p. 17) does not show only the comparison of cultural dimension scores of the Philippines (east-developing country) and the United States (west-developed country) as you state, but also of Germany;
- arguments for the research need are missing in case of the RQ5: In what ways can participation in the sharing economy as resource providers progress in developing countries?;
- according to me the following research gap is not well defined: "Cultural factors' role in consumers' propensity to lend idle resources on sharing economy platforms remains

limited." First, probably it is knowledge which is limited, second to lend is not the correct concept;

- model based on the model of TBP is missing certain linkages and no explanation is given by author;
- data collection procedure (ch. 3.2.1) and procedure of qualitative research (3.3) lacks references to theoretical background;
- both theoretical and practical contributions should be given in more details – as there are really more than it is introduced in the thesis;
- in appendix questions for qualitative research should be included.

Overall, I particularly appreciate the ability to argue and work critically with knowledge – existing and the new one “generated” by the author through his research. Research has yielded many new findings very relevant both for theory and practice.

Relevance for the practice and development of the scientific field

Relevance for the practice and the development of the scientific field is very well clarified. However, as I wrote above, there are more implications coming from the results which could be further elaborated.

Formal layout of the dissertation thesis and its language level

The thesis meets all formal level requirements. Language level is on the very high level. I only suggest correcting word from the title – from “modelling” to “modelling”.

Evaluation of student's publishing activities

The publishing activity is very good– highly beyond the average – both with number and quality, in particular both journals published by Taylor and Francis publisher and chapter in book published by Springer. In this point I believe that presenting research at the international conferences abroad, especially west of the Czech Republic was probably very beneficial to the author to get needed feedback and also due to the possibility to see and hear presentations of other participants for self-reflection.

Comments on thesis

I have no comments to the thesis. I would like to thank the author for his excellent work and wish him every success in his future - hopefully academic - career.

Questions recommended for further explanation in defence

What is your opinion on crowdfunding being included into the sharing economy?

What is the relevance of Figure 6 for your thesis?

What are the missing linkages in your model if compared to the TPB model?

On p. 17 you write following: "intentions to acquire and provide assets in peer-to-peer exchange platforms positively affect values of collectivism and masculinity". Are you sure about the cause and effect direction?

Conclusions

I hereby state that the submitted thesis meets all content and formal-related requirements.

As a reviewer of the thesis I RECOMMEND doctoral thesis for defence and after the successful process to confer the degree of philosophiae doctor (Ph.D.).



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