

## Individual study plan of students of doctoral study at IES

(Fill electronically, submit signed form to the secretariat of IES, put the file to your web page.)

### Student's data

Name and surname : Tomáš Janotík  
Year of beginning of studies : 2010  
Form of studies : present  
Advisor's name : Prof. RNDr. Jiří Hlaváček, CSc.  
Title of dissertation : Economics, altruism and happiness

### Planned harmonogram of examinations (code/title/semester)

2010/2011  
WS: AAEM – Alternative Approaches to Economic Modeling  
JEM020 – Etika a ekonomie  
SS: AAEM – Alternative Approaches to Economic Modeling  
  
2011/2012  
WS: AAEM – Alternative Approaches to Economic Modeling  
SS: AAEM – Alternative Approaches to Economic Modeling  
SS: State Doctoral Exam  
  
2012/2013  
WS: AAEM – Alternative Approaches to Economic Modeling  
SS: AAEM – Alternative Approaches to Economic Modeling  
  
2013/2014  
WS: AAEM – Alternative Approaches to Economic Modeling  
WS: Pre-defense  
SS: AAEM – Alternative Approaches to Economic Modeling  
SS: Defense

### Planned harmonogram of teaching (code/title/semester)

2010/2011:  
WS:  
- JEM004 Advanced Macroeconomics  
SS:  
- JEB002 Ekonomie II  
  
2011/2012:  
WS  
- JEM004 Advanced Macroeconomics  
SS:  
- JEB002 Ekonomie II  
  
2012/2013:  
WS:  
- JEM004 Advanced Macroeconomics  
SS:  
- JEB002 Ekonomie II  
  
2013/2014:  
WS:  
- JEM004 Advanced Macroeconomics  
SS:  
- JEB002 Ekonomie II

## Work on dissertation Synopsis (1- 2 pages)

I would like to link the topic of my dissertation thesis to the topic of my Bachelor's thesis which I wrote under supervision of professor Mlčoch at Institute of Economic Studies. The Economics of Happiness is one of the most recent subdisciplines of Economics which understands happiness as a subjective feeling of satisfaction with individual's own life (subjective well-being or SWB). Its methodology is based mostly on this concept.

There are several ways of measuring SWB in practice. The most common approach uses statistical inquiries in which respondents are directly asked how satisfied or dissatisfied they feel with their lives. The typical question may be: "All relevant factors taken into consideration, how satisfied do you feel with your life?" (Frey, 2008). Respondents are usually asked to self-report their well-being as a number on some scale (for example from 1 to 10, where 1 means "very dissatisfied" and 10 means "very satisfied"). This method allows "quantifying" happiness and then applying statistical and econometric tools and methods of analysis. In my Bachelor's thesis, I tried to examine the functioning of Benedictine monasteries and life of Benedictine monks from the perspective of Economics of Happiness. My primary focus was on identification of those factors and aspects in monastic life which could be considered to be major determinants of subjective well-being of Benedictines. I tried to show that the key determinants consist in the nature of social interaction between monks, monastic corporate governance, work ethic and intrinsic motivation and also in their voluntary work. I found the empirical support in the results of above mentioned happiness research in Economics. One possible way to continue in this topic would be doing empirical statistical research (in form of questionnaires) directly in monastic community and test whether the data gathered there would confirm the findings and hypotheses formulated in the thesis.

In addition to empirical research and a case study in above mentioned area, I would like to focus on broader theoretical issues, in particular the role of social interaction, identification with a social group, altruism and their impact on human behavior. There have been many attempts to incorporate these aspects into economic theory. There is no doubt that understanding of these issues is very crucial for developing better and more general theoretical models. In my dissertation thesis, I would like to examine these issues in a more formalized and systematized manner than the limited scope of my Bachelor's thesis allowed me to do. In my Bachelor's thesis, I discussed the concept of Mutual Correspondence of Sentiments which was originally developed by Adam Smith in his *Theory of Moral Sentiments*. The main idea is that people derive pleasure from mutual sympathy, empathy and fellow-feeling. Their desire for fellow-feeling then significantly affects their decision making. Consequently, it may be a very important determinant of human behavior. I am convinced that incorporating Adam Smith's ideas into economic theory is a very promising way toward developing richer models. It will also be very interesting to compare and evaluate predictive and explanatory power of Smith's ideas with other concepts of social interaction that were already developed in Economics, like altruism, trust or reciprocity.

## Basic literature

- Bruni, L., Porta, P.L. (Eds.): *Economics & Happiness: Framing the analysis*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2005
- Bruni, L., Porta, P. (Eds.). *Handbook on the Economics of Happiness*. Cheltenham, Northampton: Edward Elgar. 2007. ISBN 978-1-84376-826-5
- Bruni, L./ed./: „The Economy of Communion. Toward a Multi-Dimensional Economic Culture“. New City Press, New York 2002.
- Frey, B.S.: *Happiness. A Revolution in Economics*. MIT Press, 2008
- Frey, B.S., Inauen, E.: *Benediktinerabteien aus ökonomischer Sicht. Über die außerordentliche Stabilität einer besonderen Institution*. Institute for Empirical Research. University of Zurich, WP No. 388/2008
- Frey, B.S., Stutzer, A.: *Happiness and Economics. How the economy and institutions affect human well-being*. Princeton University Press, 2002
- Hlaváček J. aj., *Mikroekonomie sounáležitosti se společenstvím*. Praha, ISBN 80-7184-856-5, Karolinum 1999
- Hlaváček J. a M.: *Zobecněná mikroekonomie*, Karolinum, Praha 2010
- Lane, R.E.: *The Loss of Happiness in Market Democracies*. Yale University Press, New Haven, London, 2000
- Mlčoch, L.: *Ekonomie a štěstí: Proč méně může být někdy více*. *Politická ekonomie*, No. 2/2007
- Ostrom, E., Walker, J.: *Trust and Reciprocity: Interdisciplinary Lessons for Experimental Research*, Volume VI in the Russell Sage Foundation Series on Trust, Russell Sage Foundation, 2003
- Sugden, R.: *Correspondence of Sentiments: An Explanation of the Pleasure of Social Interaction*. In: Bruni, L., Porta, P.L.: *Economics & Happiness: Framing the analysis*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2005, p. 91-115
- Zamagni, S.: „Towards an Economics of Human Relations: On the Role of Psychology in Economics.“ *Group Analysis*, Vol.37, /1/: 17-32, London 2004.
- Zamagni, S. 1995. (Ed.): *The Economics of Altruism*. Aldershot: Edward Elgar Publishing. 1995. ISBN 978-1852789534

## Harmonogram of works

2010/2011

Beginning of work on dissertation, developing analytical framework

Submission of application for three years grant to competition of Grant Agency of Charles University (GAUK) with planned topic "Economics, Altruism and Happiness"

2011/2012

Work on dissertation, continuation in its theoretical part

Solving of 3-year grant to Grant Agency of Charles University with topic "Economics, altruism and happiness" or, if the grant was rejected last year, admission of the new one

2012/2013

Empirical part of the dissertation based on analytical framework developed in previous academic years, empirical research in Benedictine monasteries

End of GAUK grant

2013/2014

WS: Pre-defense

SS: Defense

### **Planned publication of results**

2010/2011

Submission of one IES Working Paper with planned topic "Economics and Happiness" and subsequent publication preferably into one of the following economic journals: 1. Handbook of the Economics of Giving, Altruism and Reciprocity, 2. Theory and Decision, 3. Journal of Economic Psychology

2011/2012

Publication of research paper with planned topic "Economics, Altruism and Happiness. An Analytical Framework", with focus on publishing in one of the following economic journals: 1. Handbook of the Economics of Giving, Altruism and Reciprocity, 2. Theory and Decision, 3. Journal of Economic Psychology

2012/2013

Publication of research paper with planned topic "Benedictine Monasteries from the Perspective of Happiness Economics and Economics of Altruism" preferably into one of the following economics journals: 1. Handbook of the Economics of Giving, Altruism and Reciprocity, 2. Theory and Decision, 3. Journal of Economic Psychology

2013/2014

Compiling published research papers into the dissertation

### **Concretization of study plan for 1<sup>st</sup> year of study**

Teaching:

WS: JEM004 Advanced Macroeconomics

SS: JEB002 Economie II

Participation at doctoral seminar AAEM (Alternative Approaches to Economic Modelling) in both WS and SS

Beginning of work on dissertation, developing analytical framework for the theoretical part

Submission of application of GAUK grant with planned topic "Economics, Altruism and Happiness"

Submission of one IES Working Paper with planned topic "Economics and Happiness" and publication in one of the following journals:

1. Handbook of the Economics of Giving, Altruism and Reciprocity,
2. Theory and Decision, 3. Journal of Economic Psychology

Attendance at classes suggested by the advisor – JEM020 Etika a Economie

**Teaching**  
**Participation at doctoral seminars**  
**Beginning of work on dissertation**  
**Planned examinations**

**Other activities**

Attendance and active participation at least at 50 % of all dissertation defenses and pre-defenses

Supervising Master's and Bachelor's thesis

**Advisor's evaluation**

I agree with this Individual Study Plan.

.....  
Advisor's signature

.....  
Student's signature