

DOKTORITÖÖ TEEMAD SISSEASTUJATELE 2023

MAJANDUSTEADUS/ECONOMICS

Juhendaja(d) /Supervisor(s)	Teema/Topic	Teema kirjeldus/Description of the topic	Keel/ Language ESTonian /ENGLISH
Kadri Ukrainski kadri.ukrainski@ut.ee	A System Architecture Perspective on Digital Government: The Case of Estonia	The thesis takes a holistic view on the e-government information systems to study the digital government in Estonia. Using systems thinking, a model integrating the public administration organisational and functional setup together with e-government infrastructure is aimed.	ENG/EST
Anneli Kaasa anneli.kaasa@ut.ee	Cultural differences and economic consequences of migration	Migration brings together people with very different cultural background. Although the economic success of immigrants and their possible impact on the host country's economy has been investigated before, this topic focuses on differences in cultural background using the theory of cultural dimensions (Hofstede, Schwartz, Inglehart, etc) as a basis. This enables to go in depth in investigating whether and why different cultures clash or not and whether some patterns of cultural dimensions can be expected to hinder or foster adaptation in new country. The topic also needs profound research of the possibilities to measure culture and taking into account the requirements set by the specifics of the research questions related to migration. The topic is strictly based on the concept of cultural dimensions in accordance of which the applicant is expected to offer a well thought-through set of research questions and explain the methods with what he/she is planning to answer those questions. Some possible research questions might be (but are not limited to): Does the cultural distance between the origin and host country of the immigrant influences the adaptation success? Do some host country cultural pattern/dimensions or some origin country cultural patterns/dimensions and/or combinations of those two hinder (or foster) adaptation? Are there some dimensions that are more relevant than others? How long does it take until immigrants' values differ significantly from those in the country of origin? Are the next generations' values closer to the host country? Does the adaptation speed depend on cultural background and if yes, on which dimensions?	ENG

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Diana Eerma, diana.eerma@ut.ee Mariia Chebotareva mariia.chebotareva@ut.ee	Intergovernmental Coordination from Local to European Governance	<p>The thesis can take the following directions also depending on the interests of a candidate:</p> <p>1) imply interdisciplinary approach: analysis of legal acts combined with theoretical microeconomic analysis; 2) provide a microeconomic theoretical basis for the decision-making of municipalities as well as the jurisdictions of higher level in order to enhance inter-municipal and intergovernmental cooperation in Europe; 3) suggest practical solutions for how to establish inter-municipal cooperation via introducing a special legal framework; 4) vertical and horizontal coordination processes of inter-municipal and intergovernmental cooperation can be studied, consequently providing a proposal for best practices; 5) practices of cross-border cooperation can be investigated as well. Findings may reveal obstacles and potentials for such a cooperation. Supervised PhD student will be involved into the network of COST Action CA20123.</p>	ENG
Priit Vahter priit.vahter@ut.ee	Determinants of productivity gap between frontier firms and the rest	<p>This study would investigate based on firm level and employer-employee level data the drivers of productivity gap between firms at the productivity frontier and the rest. This involves investigation of factors that create competitive advantage for the top performers (superstar firms) and/or factors that support or hinder catch-up by low or medium productivity firms with the productivity frontier. The topic needs to be narrowed down by the candidate by focusing on specific factors of the productivity gap. Proposals are especially welcome that would focus on: i) the role of differences in skills and diversity of workforce (e.g., by gender, cultural background, age) in explaining the productivity gap; ii) factors that hinder knowledge spillovers to low productivity firms; iii) how complementarities in innovation process of firms (e.g. between technological innovation and other factors of productivity) affect the productivity gap.</p>	ENG

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Tiiu Paas tiiu.paas@ut.ee	Growing uncertainty and people's economic and social resilience	The proposed research aims to provide new knowledge and lessons on how people can adapt to the uncertainties arising from the unpredictability of political, economic and social developments. Research questions may focus on changes in people's wellbeing, growing inequalities as well as adapting to new forms of working offered by labour markets (e.g. remote work, telework, co-working, gig-work). What is the role of different components of human capital in supporting people's resilience to new challenges? What government action is needed to support economic and social resilience? These are just some of the possible research questions. In addition to a quantitative analysis, the use of qualitative research approaches is also recommended by the conducting the study.	ENG
Tiiu Paas tiiu.paas@ut.ee	Adjustment of people with labour markets' developments in the conditions of increased uncertainty	Recent changes in labour markets are caused by rapidly increased uncertainty (e.g. COVID pandemic, war, several crises), technological development and digitalisation processes. These processes are pushing people to adjust with labour market developments through using new working ways (NWW; e.g. remote work, hybrid work, co-working spaces). The focus of the thesis can be on analysing social and economic consequences of increased uncertainty in labour markets (changes in employment, income, poverty, inequality, working ways), and possible effects of implemented policy measures in different countries aiming to generalise lessons and elaborate supportive measures for people and enterprises.	ENG/EST
Jaan Masso jaan.mass@ut.ee	Effects of technological changes on labour market	The PhD thesis would look at the effects of technological changes (automation, robotization etc) on the labour markets. The interaction of technological changes with other trends like internationalization and deinternationalization can be considered. The proposed research may plan to use large-scale administrative databases like the matched employer-employee data.	ENG

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Eve Parts eve.parts@ut.ee	Economic effects of population ageing	<p>Ageing is one of the greatest social and economic challenges of the 21st Century. It is important to understand how the ageing process will affect nations, economies and individuals. Most developed economies face increasing dependency ratio which translates into the tax and contribution burden of social expenditures related to ageing, such as pensions, health and long-term care. However, demography is not everything – labor force participation is an important mediating factor between demographics and the social expenditure burden. One of the mitigating factors for the aging problem could be to keep older people longer in the labor market. Retirement ages and exit routes into retirement vary a great deal across countries. These differences are strongly related to the design of the welfare systems. Therefore, it is important to figure out which policies and changes (i) in the pension and health systems and (ii) in the mindset of employers and elderly employees would help to keep older people in the labor market longer.</p> <p>Alternative research questions for PhD thesis could include (but are not limited to) following: (a) Factors influencing elderly labor supply; (b) Possibilities and practices to influence elderly labor supply through pension system; (c) Relationship between elderly labor supply and their living standard. Empirical analysis could be based on panel data or longitudinal data from SHARE – The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe. This is a multidisciplinary and cross-national panel database of micro data on health, socio-economic status, and social and family networks of about 140,000 individuals aged 50 or older (around 380,000 interviews). SHARE started in 2004 and covers 27 European countries and Israel. See more about SHARE here: http://www.share-project.org/home0.html . Doctoral candidate choosing this topic can benefit from SHARE international research community – there are more than 10.000 SHARE users since 2019.</p>	EST/ENG

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Eve Parts eve.parts@ut.ee	Are we ready for degrowth society - and how to reach there?	Degrowth is a multidisciplinary movement arguing that endless growth on a planet with limited resources is unsustainable and will inevitably lead to the collapse of the entire capitalist system. Abandoning the growth mentality and switching to a more sustainable development path requires several ideological and structural alterations. Since the natural movement in this direction tends to be too slow, political interventions are needed. For policies to work (and for them to be talked about at all), people need to be ready for the corresponding changes. This readiness is related to people's personal values, and general cultural values at national levels. Degrowth values include, among others, more emphasis on leisure, family life, and voluntary work, readiness to live a simpler life and work less for money, support for the environment over economic growth, etc. To study empirically people's readiness for degrowth, one can use quantitative approach based on the data of World/European Values Survey. This can be combined with qualitative methods (interviews, survey), depending on applicant's preferences and skills. Alternative research questions might be, e.g. who are the winners and who are the losers in degrowth process? Whether and how can governments or international organizations nudge the people's behavior and values into desired direction? How can we measure the progress in degrowth?	EST/ENG
Lenno Uusküla lenno.uuskula@ut.ee	Public Private Partnership and other solutions to the green transition and other social challenges	21st century societies are facing several challengers. Green transition is one tasks that the countries need to manage, but this is only one of several that include also health care and other sectors of the economy. The common question in all of them is how to finance the necessary investments. Public debt is already at a very high level in many European countries and the fiscal limits are tested through several recessions in a row. More and more governments are looking towards cooperation towards private sector in the financing or co-financing. The thesis could benefit from the common analysis of financial data and behavioural aspects of decision making.	ENG/EST
Lenno Uusküla lenno.uuskula@ut.ee	Essays in applied macroeconomics	The thesis theme is open for suggestions in the field of applied macroeconomics. It can include both empirical and theoretical papers as well as different questions on growth	ENG

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		and the business cycle analysis. All data sources such as standard macroeconomic data or unstructured big data can be analysed depending on the specific question.	