

VIEW COMMENTS FROM EXTERNAL REVIEWER

Project Number : 16600517

Project Title : Spatial Price Differences in China

PI Name : Prof Holz, Carsten A

Co-I Name : Prof Brandt, Loren

Section A : Detailed Comments

1. Please comment on the objective(s) of the proposal, and whether the research agenda adequately addresses the objective(s)?

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments:

This is a tough proposal to assess in the sense that the objective is to construct consumption price levels across provinces and with a breakdown into the expenditure approach components. This is an update to prior work conducted by the research team. The output of this project will more than meet the demand and fill this gap in the literature. However, there is nothing new per se and I am not sure if this objective is sufficient in a competition for scarce research dollars. In other words, the amount of new knowledge that this proposal would generate is a data series that others could incorporate and most proposals I evaluate by RGC are much more ambitious.

2. Please comment on the Research Design and Methodology.

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments:

This is an extension of prior work and the PI and co I are quite familiar with the data sources and the methodology.

3. Please comment on the feasibility of the proposed research.

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments:

This is a safe project that is low risk. The major challenge is assembling the inputs from various sources including statistical yearbooks to conduct the calculations.

4. What do you consider to be the most original or innovative aspect of the proposed research? What advances would the research result bring about to the related field if the proposed research is successful?

Comments:

There is nothing innovative about this project. The research will provide an input into other research programs that may help explain differences in the pattern of spatial development

5. Please comment on the reasonableness of the proposed budget and manpower planning and project duration.

Comments:

I have no issue with funding a PHD student to assist on this project but the other expenses do not seem warranted. After all, the PI and co I can discuss issues over skype and there does not seem to be a need for face to face work on this project. The project is safe and the duration is appropriate.

6. Overall Comments

Overall Comment : This project will construct a data series that offers value to many in the research community.

Strength: These data series are well-utilized by the research community.

Weaknesses: The proposal is safe and offers no clear methodological or theoretical advances.

Suggested improvements: the proposal would be strengthened by discussing how the approach differs from calculations conducted in other projects such as the BOCD. It would also be interesting to expand the proposal for some new analysis that explores a topic such as regional inequality in the spirit of Raj Chetty's

geographic work on US data. That is, an application on top of the data construction would allow a reviewer to confidently conclude that this project if funded generates new insights.

Section B : Summary of Assessment

The project :

Scientific/scholarly merit	Excellent <input type="radio"/>	Very Good <input type="radio"/>	Good <input checked="" type="radio"/>	Fair <input type="radio"/>	Poor <input type="radio"/>
Duration Proposed	Too Long <input type="radio"/>	Appropriate <input checked="" type="radio"/>	Too Short <input type="radio"/>		
Impact of Research	High <input type="radio"/>	Moderate <input checked="" type="radio"/>	Low <input type="radio"/>	None <input type="radio"/>	

The principal investigator :

Ability to undertake the proposal	Excellent <input checked="" type="radio"/>	Very Good <input type="radio"/>	Good <input type="radio"/>	Fair <input type="radio"/>	Poor <input type="radio"/>
Track record in field	Excellent <input type="radio"/>	Very Good <input type="radio"/>	Good <input checked="" type="radio"/>	Fair <input type="radio"/>	Poor <input type="radio"/>

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