

Ref: COGENTECON-2021-0050
218482133

Does Government Policy Matter in Economic Growth Convergence? Evidence from East Java-Indonesia
Cogent Economics and Finance

Dear Achmad Solihin,

Your manuscript entitled "Does Government Policy Matter in Economic Growth Convergence? Evidence from East Java-Indonesia", which you submitted to Cogent Economics and Finance, has now been reviewed.

The reviews, included at the bottom of the letter, indicate that your manuscript could be suitable for publication following revision. We hope that you will consider these suggestions, and revise your manuscript.

Please submit your revision by May 27, 2021, if you need additional time then please contact the Editorial Office.

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- * about the author - a short summary of NO MORE THAN 150 WORDS, detailing either your own or your group's key research activities, including a note on how the research reported in this paper relates to wider projects or issues.

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Please ensure that you clearly highlight changes made to your manuscript, as well as submitting a thorough response to reviewers.

We look forward to receiving your revised article.
Best wishes,
Robert Read
Editor
Cogent Economics and Finance

Comments from the Editors and Reviewers:

Title, Abstract and Introduction – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Sound

Methodology / Materials and Methods – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Sound with minor or moderate revisions

Objective / Hypothesis – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Sound

Figures and Tables – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Sound

Results / Data Analysis – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Sound with minor or moderate revisions

Interpretation / Discussion – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Sound

Conclusions – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Unsound or fundamentally flawed

References – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Sound with minor or moderate revisions

Compliance with Ethical Standards – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Not applicable

Writing – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Sound with minor or moderate revisions

Supplemental Information and Data – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Not applicable

Comments to author
Reviewer 1: In many ways, this is an impressive paper tackling regional convergence; it tests both sigma and beta convergence as well as deriving endogenous spatial weights.

A number of issues arise:

1. Why focus on East Java rather than Java as a whole - to what extent are there border effects with West Java (and the rest of the country) that are overlooked by the

focus?

2. The time period under analysis is extremely short - 2011-2017 should be seven years yet 228 observations for 38 regions suggests only six years. This period is very very short for any analysis and empirical testing of regional or national convergence. How do the findings for East Java relate generally to Indonesia's overall performance?

3. It would have been useful for the literature review to have shown some degree of interest in broader examples of similar empirical work - there is a very substantial body of work on regional convergence in the EU as well as in the US and Australia, among others. None of this is mentioned and no critical inferences regarding the analytical methodology are derived from this research.

4. The stated objective is the role of government in convergence yet this is not tackled as comprehensively as might have been expected. The conclusions are brief and comment very little on this primary objective.

5. The empirical work is impressive and produces some significant results that address the fundamental research questions. I remain sceptical however, of the validity of the results given the very short-time period under discussion and the weight of inferences and conclusions being drawn on this basis.

Title, Abstract and Introduction – overall evaluation

Reviewer 2: Outstanding

Methodology / Materials and Methods – overall evaluation

Reviewer 2: Sound

Objective / Hypothesis – overall evaluation

Reviewer 2: Sound

Figures and Tables – overall evaluation

Reviewer 2: Sound

Results / Data Analysis – overall evaluation

Reviewer 2: Sound

Interpretation / Discussion – overall evaluation

Reviewer 2: Sound with minor or moderate revisions

Conclusions – overall evaluation

Reviewer 2: Sound with minor or moderate revisions

References – overall evaluation

Reviewer 2: Sound

Compliance with Ethical Standards – overall evaluation

Reviewer 2: Sound

Writing – overall evaluation
Reviewer 2: Sound

Supplemental Information and Data – overall evaluation
Reviewer 2: Not applicable

Comments to author

Reviewer 2: This is an interesting and overall well-written paper. I have a few observations and questions.

Section 2.3. The Role of Government Policy

In the paper, the government policy was proxied by using government expenditure on capital, education and health sector. However, the role of government policy presented in Section 2.3 only focus on the importance of infrastructure investment. Section 2.3 needs to be revised to incorporate the role of government expenditure on capital, education and health sector in economic growth convergence.

Section 3.1: Data

Is there any rationale of considering the 2011-2017 period for the analysis? Using recent data on Real GDP per capita (2018, 2019, and 2020) might also be useful.

Section 4: Results and discussion

- In table 1, the following variable is shown: "Ln Per Capita Real GDP". However, it is not clear what this represents. When referring to Equation 1 on the variance computation and to Section 3.1 on data, for each year there should be 38 observations on GDP, each corresponding to the 38 regions of East Java. However, in Equation 1, only one value of GDP is displayed for each year. Could you explain?
- Display the value of the real GDP per capita in Table 1, in addition to the one of "Ln Per Capita Real GDP".
- The paper lacks clear policy implication of the results. Based on the results, how should policy be oriented in East Java-Indonesia?

Section 5: Conclusion

The conclusion should recall the objective of the paper as well as the methodology used. In addition, the conclusion should state the scope and implication of the results of the paper.

Title, Abstract and Introduction – overall evaluation
Reviewer 3: Outstanding

Methodology / Materials and Methods – overall evaluation
Reviewer 3: Unsound or fundamentally flawed

Objective / Hypothesis – overall evaluation

Reviewer 3: Sound with minor or moderate revisions

Figures and Tables – overall evaluation

Reviewer 3: Sound

Results / Data Analysis – overall evaluation

Reviewer 3: Unsound or fundamentally flawed

Interpretation / Discussion – overall evaluation

Reviewer 3: Unsound or fundamentally flawed

Conclusions – overall evaluation

Reviewer 3: Sound with minor or moderate revisions

References – overall evaluation

Reviewer 3: Sound with minor or moderate revisions

Compliance with Ethical Standards – overall evaluation

Reviewer 3: Unsound or fundamentally flawed

Writing – overall evaluation

Reviewer 3: Unsound or fundamentally flawed

Supplemental Information and Data – overall evaluation

Reviewer 3: Not applicable

Comments to author

Reviewer 3: Please see the attached reviewer report.

Two of the Referees are generally positive regarding the paper but require major revisions to be made before it can be considered further for publication.

Referee 3 is concerned regarding the similarity between this paper and a previously published paper: Sugiharti, L. (2014). A regional income convergence process in East Java (Indonesia): Do spatial dependence and spatial regimes matter? *IPEDR*, 76(17). Doi: 10.7763/IPEDR.2014. Before any revised submission can be assessed and evaluated, a response regarding this issue is required.

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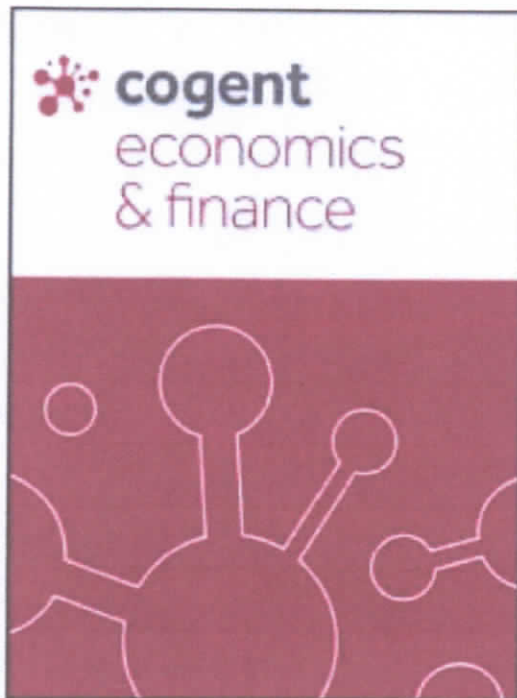
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Cogent Economics and Finance

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Article: Do government policies drive economic growth convergence? Evidence from East Java, Indonesia

Journal: *Cogent Economics & Finance* OAEF

Article ID: OAEF 1992875

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