

Joint Dissertation Review

Name of the student:	Alex Kurki
Title of the thesis:	The Politics of Prague's Metal Scene
Reviewer:	Dennie Oude Nijhuis

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

This thesis deals with the question of how involvement in Prague's metal scene interacts with attitudes towards political participation. This is an interesting question that the author manages to connect well with the broader scholarship on the literature on the relationship between politics and music in general and political subcultures. The overview of the literature is exhaustive and the engagement is critical and connects well with the research question.

2. ANALYSIS

(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

The research design is in principle correct and rests on a sufficient theoretical backing. The thesis' main shortcoming lies in the low sample size: out of the 1400 metal bands that are active in the country, and the 115 bands that were contacted, only 22 musicians agreed to participate. While a small sample size does not necessarily have to be a problem there is good reason to believe that it is problematic in this case. The thesis offers no discussion of the ramifications of sample size, which is surprising as this would have been easy to do (I read this as an exploratory study). The author attributes the low response rate to his inability to speak Czech, but does not discuss why he did not consider translating the survey into Czech, which is surprising given that there might have been few interpretation problems with doing so (many of the questions could have been posed in a simple or even binary manner: do you participate, yes or no, what party do you support, etc). The qualitative part of the analysis is somewhat less clearly structured than the quantitative part.

3. CONCLUSIONS

(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

Whether the thesis managed to achieve its research objectives depends on the extent to which the low sample size is deemed to be a problem. As this is an exploratory study, and despite my comments above, I will consider this to be a minor problem.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

The use of language is quite good and so is the referencing, citation style etc. On some occasions the thesis could have benefited from more extensive referencing.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

This is a well-written paper that deals with an interesting problem. Had the author managed to obtain a higher response rate than the thesis could have been excellent.

Grade (A-F):	B
Date: 18-6-2019	Signature:
	