

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE
Fakulta sociálních věd
Institut mezinárodních studií

PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE
(Posudek vedoucího)

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): Filip Šourek

Název práce: Social, Legal and Political Changes in the United States in the Question of LGBT Community between 1969 and 1981

Vedoucí práce (u externích vedoucích uveďte též adresu a funkci v rámci instituce): Lucie Kýrová, M.A., Ph.D.

1. OBSAH A CÍL PRÁCE (stručná informace o práci, formulace cíle):

This BA thesis examines LGBT activism and the changes it brought between 1969 and 1981. The author selected this time-frame based on two major events that had an impact on LGBT community and its activism for equal rights – the Stonewall Riots of 1969 and the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in 1981. Mr. Šourek examines the decade of the 1970s and the changes it brought to the LGBT community from a social, legal and political perspective and argues that the Stonewall Riots had a critical impact on the formation of new LGBT organizations and their strategies, which brought political changes to the community and thus made the 1970s decade one of the most crucial for the fight for LGBT equal rights. The aim of the thesis is to expand our understanding of LGBT activism by analyzing the connections between the Stonewall Riots, the 1970s LGBT activism, and the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

2. VĚCNÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (náročnost, tvůrčí přístup, argumentace, logická struktura, teoretické a metodologické ukotvení, práce s prameny a literaturou, vhodnost příloh apod.):

The author approaches the topic of LGBT activism in the 1970s from a combination of social, political, and legal perspective, which allows him to present a more complex picture of the events and their impacts on the LGBT community. The thesis is divided into four chapters, which present a logical structure for the selected topic and allows the author to clearly introduce the historical context as well as detailed analysis of the selected period and events. First chapter provides a historical context to the Stonewall Riots, their description and impact. The author explains why the riots took place in New York City and why in 1969, providing the reader with information about the LGBT community standing prior to 1969. In the second chapter the author explains the immediate changes that took place after the riots in terms of activists' strategy and attitudes from "passive activism" to active – more direct action strategy. The third chapter introduced the legal, political, and social changes that took place during the 1970s, indicating the impact of the changed strategy and new activist organizations. The fourth chapter than examines the role the HIV/AIDS epidemic played in terms of the, yet again changing LGBT community's social, political, and legal standing as well as the fight for their equal rights. The author uses secondary academic literature as well as primary sources to support his claims. To further demonstrate some of the aspects he describes in the text, the author uses historical photos within the text.

3. FORMÁLNÍ A JAZYKOVÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (jazykový projev, správnost citace a odkazů na literaturu, grafická úprava, formální náležitosti práce apod.):

The thesis is written clearly, in good English with only an occasional mistake such as a missing article or a lower case letter in an official name. The author diligently cites his sources, using Chicago Style format. The paper has all formal necessities; visual material - photos are fittingly selected and placed in the text.

4. STRUČNÝ KOMENTÁŘ HODNOTITELE (celkový dojem z bakalářské práce, silné a slabé stránky, originalita myšlenek, naplnění cíle apod.):

Overall, this is a well written thesis, with some shortcomings. The arguments are presented logically and clearly, supported by evidence from primary and secondary sources. However, there are few arguments that could use further or more detailed explanations. For example on p. 4, the author mentions the funeral of Judy Garland as one of the impulses for the Stonewall riots, but doesn't explain how exactly how – is it possible that the combination of grief and police discrimination was the so-called last drop in the cup of patience? The author here could analyze the situation in NYC further and attempted at least an educated guess. Similarly on p. 4,

the author mentions strict sexual and gender expectations in post-WWII USA, but doesn't explain what they were. An explanatory footnote would suffice here.

It would also help if the author explained the difference between resistance and a riot. On p. 7, where he describes the Stonewalls Riots, the early stages of the event sound more like a resistance than rioting. Here it would help to offer a definition of the two and explain why the Stonewall events are called riots. Pp 11 – 13 and the author's discussion of new LGBT activist organization – this section would be strengthened by a clearer argument about the organizations' impact in terms of the concrete changes they engendered (specific laws, successful lobbying for supporters, etc). Did these organizations use other strategies and activities besides the zaps. In the discussion of HIV/AIDS impact on the LGBT community and its standing, the author should explain more fully the negative impact of the epidemic and the role of the Christian Right ideology (p. 31). Did this ideology and attitude toward LGBT people impact the federal government handling of the AIDS crisis? Or did it impact the general social attitudes? Both?

The thesis also lacks a proper literature review. The author introduces in general the sources used in his research, but doesn't discuss the academic secondary literature in detail. His claim that there is a noticeable gap in our knowledge of the 1970s LGBT activism then remains unsupported.

Despite these shortcomings, the thesis fulfils its stated goals and the author's arguments are supported with evidence.

5. OTÁZKY A PŘIPOMÍNKY DOPORUČENÉ K BLIŽŠÍMU VYSVĚTLENÍ PŘI OBHAJOBĚ (jedna až tři):

Discuss the academic secondary literature you used in your research in more detail and explain how your thesis fit in – expand – or challenge our existing knowledge of the 1970s LGBT activism.

On p. 20 you describe the increase in articles in periodicals as well as literature on LGTB community and with LGBT themes. Do you know how many of these books and articles were written by LGBT authors? Could an increasing number of published LGBT authors also indicate social changes in the society? And, would you consider such writing a part of LGBT activism?

Explain in more detail the impact of the Christian Right views of LGBT community and the HIV/AIDS epidemic. What exactly was the influence and its repercussions?

6. DOPORUČENÍ / NEDOPORUČENÍ K OBHAJOBĚ A NAVRHOVANÁ ZNÁMKA

(A-F):

The BA thesis fullfils the requirements for BA Thesis and I recommend it for defense. I'm suggesting a grade C, in a case of an excellent defense a possible rise to grade B.

Datum: 3.9.2020

Podpis:

Pozn.: Hodnocení píše k jednotlivým bodům, pokud nepíšete v textovém editoru, použijte při nedostatku místa zadní stranu nebo příložený list. V hodnocení práce se pokuste oddělit ty její nedostatky, které jsou, podle vašeho mínění, obhajobou neodstranitelné (např. chybí kritické zhodnocení pramenů a literatury), od těch věcí, které student může dobrou obhajobou napravit; poměr těchto dvou položek berte prosím v úvahu při stanovení konečné známky.