

Opponent's Report on Dissertation Thesis

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Title of the Thesis:	Economic History of Authors' Rights and Creative Industries in Czechoslovakia
Type of Defense:	DEFENSE
Date of Pre-Defense	May 13, 2020
Opponent:	Doc. Ing. Martin Kvizda Ph.D.

Address the following questions in your report, please:

- a) Can you recognize an original contribution of the author?
- b) Is the thesis based on relevant references?
- c) Is the thesis defensible at your home institution or another respected institution where you gave lectures?
- d) Do the results of the thesis allow their publication in a respected economic journal?
- e) Are there any additional major comments on what should be improved?
- f) What is your overall assessment of the thesis? (a) I recommend the thesis for defense without substantial changes, (b) the thesis can be defended after revision indicated in my comments, (c) not-defensible in this form.

(Note: The report should be at least 2 pages long.)

a) Can you recognize an original contribution of the author?

At the beginning of my report, I would like to state that the author has developed a relatively unique, but in terms of history and development of economic policy very interesting topic. Economic policy as a scientific discipline tends to examine national economies as a whole, relying on macroeconomic aggregates and data; less often, the national economy is viewed from a microeconomic or sectoral perspective. In that context, the presented study by Hana Moravcová fills one of the gaps in economic policy research and at the same time in the economic history of Czechoslovakia. In this respect, the dissertation is original and fully corresponds to the field of the author's study. The topic of the dissertation is very interesting, the author brings new findings that are relevant both in theory as well as in applied economic policy and Czechoslovak economic history.

b) Is the thesis based on relevant references?

The author begins her text with an extensive literature review, which is mainly focused on the issue of copyright. The author pays less attention to literature review focused on state support generally and especially for filmmaking; I would expect her to pay equal attention to the theoretical basis of subsidy policy and internal market protection policy with all costs and consequences. However, the author works correctly with the literature and other sources; she sufficiently justified a certain disproportion in the literary review during the pre-defense. I very much appreciate that the author based her dissertation on the original, very difficult to access and still little used sources - this is in itself a valuable benefit of the dissertation.

c) Is the thesis defensible at your home institution or another respected institution where you gave lectures?

Yes, the dissertation is defensible at Masaryk University. The usual form is either a consistent text with a clearly defined research question and its answer at the end, or a collection of previously published articles provided with comprehensive commentary. The dissertation of Hana Moravcová remains somewhere on the border of both. However, the form of the dissertation (as well as the explanation during the defense) fully corresponds to its topic and thus meets the standards of Masaryk University as well.

d) Do the results of the thesis allow their publication in a respected economic journal?

Yes, parts of the thesis has publication potential in respected journals. As far as I know, the author has already successfully published parts of the text, which should also be appreciated.

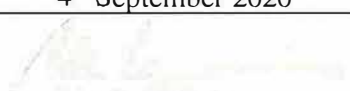
e) Are there any additional major comments on what should be improved?

There is no need to change anything fundamental in the dissertation; from my point of view, its structure remains only somewhat debatable. In the introduction to her text, Hana Moravcová sets out three main objectives: 1) „*answering the question what the authors' rights system is*”; 2) „*to answer the question by whom or by what factors the development of the authors' rights system in Czech countries was driven*”; 3) „*to find out, which conditions did the creators had to face ... and ... to analyze the impact of state cultural policies on creative industries*“ (p. 9). At the same time, the author sets the main, overarching goal as „*an analysis of the cultural policy of Czechoslovakia from the economic history perspective*“ (p. 7). The mission conceived in this way is very interesting and beneficial from the point of view of the history and methodology of economic policy, at the same time it is also very broad and difficult to grasp within one dissertation. In the first chapter, the author deals with the economic theory of copyright law, specifically analyzes and corrects in detail methodological errors in economics of authors' rights. The author uses several case studies from the period of the first Czechoslovak Republic as evidence for her claims. The text contains a very extensive and interesting literature review, the author has processed a large number of difficult-to-access and difficult-to-process sources, and at the same time very relevant to the topic. However, in the context of the set objectives of the dissertation and its structure, the question is whether this part is more of a theoretical work documenting the results of a case study, or whether it is an analysis of a specific economic policy of the First Republic. The remaining two chapters are devoted to the latter, so the topics

intertwine with one another and it is therefore not clear why the text is divided in this way. The author could conceive the whole dissertation as an annotated set of articles that are interrelated, but do not directly follow each other. The author would thus avoid complicated explanations and the work would seem methodically more accurate. However, the individual parts of the dissertation are of good quality, the author explained quite clearly during the pre-defense and justified way of working concept based on several case studies. The case studies, which form the third chapter, are a very interesting probe into the economic history of the Czech film industry. The author performed a quantitative analysis, based on the original difficult-to-access sources, which should be especially appreciated.

f) What is your overall assessment of the thesis?

(a) I recommend the thesis for defense without substantial changes.

Date:	4 th September 2020
Opponent's Signature:	 Martin Kvizda
Opponent's Affiliation:	Masaryk University Faculty of Economics and Administration Department of Economics