FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Charles University

Master's Thesis Evaluation Form

Student's name: Öykü Demirkır

Thesis title: Solidarity Academies in Turkey: An analysis of academic activism, parrhesia, and commoning practices

Name of the supervisor: doc. Mgr. Martin Hájek, Ph.D.

Name of the opponent: prof. PhDr. Ing. Ondřej Císař, Ph.D.

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the thesis? Please give your reasons for the suggested grade in detail below.

1. Does the author show understanding of one or more theories, and use theory to generate a hypothesis or to make the problem area more understandable.

The author clearly demonstrates her knowledge of several relevant theories (section 2.2), however, they are presented separately in the thesis, there is no attempt to integrate them in a unified analytical framework. Also, the selection of the used theories is not justified.

2. Is the research question articulated clearly and properly? Is the research question sufficiently answered in the conclusion?

Research questions are formulated only in the middle of the thesis (section 3.1), which is not a standard solution. RQs should have been included in the introduction, which is completely missing in this thesis. The section titled "Introduction" is not introduction at all, it does not play that role. The research questions are very descriptive, at the same time, it is possible to conclude that the thesis attempts to answer them in its interpretation part.

3. Is the thesis based on relevant research and literature and does it accurately summarize and integrate the information?

The thesis is based on relevant research and literature, although I miss more specific information on data creation and analysis. Also, I do not understand why theories on social and political activism have not been (at least) debated in the thesis.

4. What is the quality of the data or the other sources? Are the sample method, data collection and data analysis appropriate?

The methods used are not clearly specified, the information provided is very general, there is, for example, no clear indication regarding the number of social media profiles analysed in the thesis. The section reads more like a general text-book description, not as the methodology section of a thesis. Therefore, it is hard to judge the quality of the data used and analysed.

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5.   *Are the findings relevant to the research question? Are the conclusions of the thesis based on strong arguments?*

The findings are relevant to the research questions. I am not similarly sure about the strength of the presented argument on truth-telling practices. I actually think the role of sociologists is not to decide who is right in political conflicts, but to analyse their mechanisms, causes and consequences.

6.   *Are the author's thoughts distinguished unambiguously from the borrowed ideas?*

Yes, they are distinguished.

7.   *Is the thesis containing original/innovative research (in terms of topic, approach, and/or findings)?*

There is enough innovation, probably, less would be more in the case of this thesis.

8.   *What is the quality of style and other formal requirements?*

There is no problem in this dimension.

9.   *Are there any other strengths and weaknesses of the thesis, which are not included in the previous questions? Please list them if any.*

No further comments.

10.   *What topic do you suggest for the discussion in the thesis defence?*

Please, explain your selection of theories and the reasons why much more relevant theories on political mobilization and civic activism have not been consulted and discussed.

Overall assessment of the thesis:

Based on my above evaluation, I recommend the thesis for defence, since it meets the basic required criteria. I have listed my critical comments above.

Proposed grade: D

Date: January 28, 2021   Signature:

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