

CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE
Faculty of Social Sciences
Institute of International Studies

PROTOCOL ON DIPLOMA THESIS ASSESSMENT
(Reviewer)

Name of the student: Patricie Bártová

Title: Alternative media and political activism: Crooked Media's involvement in Georgia elections

Reviewer: Jiří Pondělíček

1. TOPIC AND OBJECTIVE (short information on the thesis, research objective):

The student selected a very contemporary topic of alternative media, which she studied, rather interestingly, also from the perspective of political activism. She used Crooked Media as her case study.

2. CONTENT (complexity, original approach, argument, structure, theoretical and methodological backing, work with sources, appropriateness of annexes etc.):

The thesis is very ambitious and to a large extent original. The text is divided into the theoretical part dealing with the definition of alternative media, which the author acknowledges is rather vague and not universally accepted, and trying to determine whether the definition used by the author could be applied to Crooked Media. The second part is a case study of Crooked media again divided into two main parts. One part analyses the content and the other focuses on the consumers (viewers) and based on a questionnaire survey investigates, among other things, their perspectives on and expectations of bias. The thesis is well structured and the author works well with her sources.

3. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE (quality of language, citation style, graphics, formal aspects etc.):

There are occasional stylistic issues (e.g. "initiate initiatives" in the abstract), but otherwise the language is above average. All formal requirements are met with no apparent issues.

4. STATEMENT ON THE ORIGINALITY OF THE THESIS

The thesis was checked by the Turnitin/URKUND/Theses anti-plagiarism software and
I was unable to access the results.

5. SHORT COMMENTS BY THE REVIEWER (overall impression, strengths and weaknesses, originality of ideas, achievement of the research objective etc.):

The thesis is well above average for a MA thesis. The author selected a very interesting topic and analyzed it using appropriate theoretical framework and structured the presentation of her findings very well and in a logical fashion. I do believe the objective was met. One slight objection might be that the theoretical part omits the political activism.

6. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED DURING THE DEFENCE:

1. Is the activist alternative media an example of a non-hierarchical structure replacing or complementing the traditional authoritative institution (traditional media)? How does that relate to the activist aspect of alternative media?
2. If liberal viewers are aware of the bias and to certain extent accept Crooked Media as a complement rather than a replacement of traditional media, would you expect similar results among the conservatives?

7. (NON-)RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTED GRADE:

YES – A (on A-F scale)

Date: 13.6. 2022

Signature: