



FACULTY OF ARTS  
Charles University

Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Kristina Pěkníková: *Alternatives to the Married State in the Works of Margaret Oliphant*

In my view, this work not only fulfils but exceeds the requirements for a BA thesis, by extent, critical acumen, and assured style. Ms. Pěkníková decided to focus on the novels of the Scottish author Margaret Oliphant, a topic which is outside the scope of the compulsory BA curriculum and is not covered in any elective seminars available at our department. She thus needed to show much more independence and enterprise than if she had opted for writers who are routinely taught as part of the BA programme.

Moreover, Oliphant has for long been neglected by critics and scholarly work that engages with her oeuvre is still scarce. Ms. Pěkníková has thus written not only an accomplished BA thesis but a piece of scholarship which is of relevance in the field of Scottish studies and contributes to research into nineteenth-century British women writers.

She draws on available sources on Oliphant and combines them fittingly with more general research on the historical and social context of the period and with theoretical works from the realm of gender studies and feminist criticism. She manages to balance engagement with existing scholarship and her own observations and conclusions. The thesis is well-organised, carefully formatted, and fluently written.

Questions:

1. Is there any aspect of the thesis that you would change in retrospect?
2. What would you identify as the major gaps in the research conducted so far on Oliphant? What other directions would you see as relevant for the study of her work?

The following questions are posed out of interest, not to indicate weaknesses in the submitted work.

I am happy to recommend this thesis for defence and suggest the grade “excellent” (výborně), depending on the result of the viva and the examiner’s feedback.

Mgr. Petra Johana Poncarová, PhD.

3 June 2022, Edinburgh