



FACULTY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Charles University

Report on the part of the master state examination Record of the thesis defence

Academic year: 2021/2022

Student's name and surname: Ole Bøgh Ellekrog
Student's ID: 89097595

Type of the study programme: Master's (post-Bachelor)
Study programme: Journalism, Media and Globalisation
Study ID: 685585

Title of the thesis: The rise of the robo-journalists: What human journalists think of the creativity of their AI colleagues
Thesis department: Department of Journalism (23-KZ)
Language of the thesis: English
Language of defence: English
Advisor: Mgr. Veronika Macková, Ph.D.
Reviewer(s): doc. PhDr. Alice Němcová Tejkalová, Ph.D.
Date of defence: 13.09.2022 **Venue of defence:** Praha
Attempt: regular

Course of defence: Welcome: doc. Alice Němcová Tejkalová

Candidate's presentation:
Introduction and current situation - Candidate is interested in AI, creativity and journalism.
Research questions presented - How do journalists in the newsroom across Europe view the prospect of AI and robo-journalists replacing humans in classically creative tasks?
Theoretical framework and purpose of the study - AI is entering journalism, which has consequences worth researching. The candidate concentrated on creativity, journalism and AI in the theoretical part of the thesis.
Data collection and analysis - 13 interviews with journalists and researchers from across Europe
Findings - The candidate provided the timeline of robo-journalism and AI in Europe and summed up the state of robo-journalism in European newsrooms. He, among others, highlighted the accuracy and ethical issues connected with the phenomena.
Conclusions and Discussion - The candidate was able to present conclusions clearly.
Limitations and recommendations - The research sample, the structure (especially in the Methodological part), the application of the methods.

Reviews read and commented on by the candidate
Veronika Macková, Ph.D. (supervisor):
As a supervisor, I am satisfied with the final work that Ole Bøgh Ellekrog has presented, although his research has limitations.
Because of the Turing test, I cannot give the best grade, and I find

this part of the research problematic. I evaluate the thesis between B-C.

Suggested Grade: B/C

Doc. Alice Němcová Tejkalová (opponent):

It is a very good thesis, presenting interesting results, sometimes, unfortunately, more of them in the Appendices than in the main body of work. The topic is original, trendy in the recent academic sphere, and the research is firmly founded on quite robust theoretic part. Therefore, I suggest to grade it between B-C, depending on the quality of defense.

Suggested Grade B/C

Questions asked and answered:

Supervisor: Veronika Macková, Ph.D.

Which European country uses automated journalism the most? Why is this country the most progressive in this area?

The candidate mentioned the Netherlands.

At what level are the texts produced by the robotic reporter? Will the human reporter be replaced in the short term?

In some cases, human reporters have already been replaced. The candidate thinks that it will not be realized in the short term.

Opponent: Doc. Alice Němcová Tejkalová

Why the asked interviewees were not interested in your research (if they responded to you)?

The candidate is not able to respond clearly; hence the reasons varied. The candidate used various ways of approaching possible respondents, but it was challenging.

Discussion follows

Final Grade announced: B

Result of defence:	excellent (B)
Chair of the board:	doc. PhDr. Alice Němcová Tejkalová, Ph.D. (present)
Committee members:	Mgr. Veronika Macková, Ph.D. (present)
	Mgr. František Géla
	Mgr. Ing. Kateřina Turková, Ph.D. (present)