

Evaluation of thesis “Millennial Women and Pornography...” written by Olivia A. Zivot.

The thesis has got clearly defined goals, which revolves around a role of pornography in the lives of women belonging to the millennial generation. The grounded theory approach is a suitable research design to dig deep into the topic. A strong part of the thesis is a clear literary review introducing so called negative effect paradigm and a paradigm shift in pornography research. It seems that the research findings perfectly correspond with previous research, meaning it is also part of the so called paradigm shift. On top of that, the thesis is most broadly very well put into a theoretical concepts and perspectives provided by Michael Foucault and Georges Bataille. I believe including the two theoretical perspectives puts the thesis into the context of historical sociology, while the whole generational perspective focusing on the so called millennial generation could also be implicitly understood as “doing historical sociology”.

Minor criticism relates to the use of the concept of cultural trauma. First, I do not see any evidence, references or sources in the thesis that would support the idea, that the millennials as a generation were affected and traumatized by the rapid emergence and spread of online pornography (page 30). Also, it seems to me that the problem introduced by the student could be better put into a frame of William Ogburn’s “culture lag” theory.

Regarding formal aspects, both parts of the thesis are very readable. It includes rather extensive list of literature used for writing the thesis.

Questions for the defence:

1. Are there any other theories that could serve as a general theoretical framework of the research? If so, how? I have in mind critical theory, Norbert Elias for example.
2. I do not understand the difference between the two metaphors used to describe millennials (digital natives versus digital guinea pigs, page 27). Please explain.

I consider the thesis very good. I would like to recommend the student to publish a shorter version of the thesis in form of a research paper in some academic journal (for example *Urban People* at the faculty of humanities, or *Gender and Research*).

I propose mark excellent.

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Prague, January 26th, 2024