

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

PROTOCOL ON DIPLOMA THESIS ASSESSMENT
(Reviewer)

Name of the student: Luca Zucchetti

Title: Russian LGBTQ+ activism in times of war and repressions: the experience of activists in emigration

Reviewer: Karel Svoboda

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

The thesis explores the topic of LGBTQ+ activism from abroad, using the example of Russian groups fighting for their rights. It is a well-defined topic with an understandable methodology. What I was missing was a clearer research question.

2. CONTENT (complexity, original approach, argument, structure, theoretical and methodological backing, work with sources, appropriateness of annexes etc.): The thesis helps to understand the activism of human rights in Russia from the perspective of those, who fled the country. The thesis is based on interviews with activists, one of the most challenging forms of research. However, the author was able to cope with the challenges very well. However, a clear question would make the research better targeted. I am not sure if the thesis is about the fates of the activists abroad, contributing to the literature on the political/human rights emigration, or about fighting the autocracy from abroad. However, even collecting interviews would be a great contribution on its own. Although twelve (if I am not mistaken) interviews might sound like a limited number, it must be underlined that collecting them requires enormous work. And for an extremely sensitive topic with the potential to endanger people in Russia, it is even more complex.

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

I don't have any remarks about the language of the thesis. To the extent I can judge, it is written in an understandable and readable way, with almost no typos (I found one: challege (page 50)). The formal aspects, such as footnotes, are correct and consistent throughout the text.

4. STATEMENT ON THE ORIGINALITY OF THE THESIS

The thesis was checked by the Turnitin/URKUND/Theses anti-plagiarism software: the Theses system revealed 3% similarity, the Turnitin software 20%. However, no document states that the similarity would exceed one percent. The thesis is, therefore, original.

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

My overall impression is positive. The author defined the topic well and in an understandable form. I cannot fully evaluate the originality of the topic since I am not a specialist on LGBTQ+ issues. Nevertheless, it is interestingly written and unquestionably contributes to our understanding of current Russia. On the other hand, better concentrating on activism or life after emigration would improve the focus of the thesis. However, this is a suggestion for further research rather than a weakness.

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

1. LGBTQ+ rights are unquestionably suppressed in Russia. Are there still any organizations that openly deal with the community's rights?

7. (NON-)RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTED GRADE:

(on A-F scale) I recommend this thesis for defense with an evaluation of A.

Date:

Signature: