

**UNIVERZITA KARLOVA**  
**Fakulta sociálních věd**  
**Institut mezinárodních studií**

**PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE**  
**(Posudek vedoucího)**

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): **Daniel Richter**

Název práce: **Identita českých krajanů a jejich potomků v New Yorku**

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Vedoucí práce (u externích vedoucích uveďte též adresu a funkci v rámci instituce):

**doc. PhDr. Francis Raška, PhD.**

1. OBSAH A CÍL PRÁCE (stručná informace o práci, formulace cíle):

**This work traces the evolution of the Czech community in New York and the preservation of its identity. A particular emphasis is placed on the role of institutions, such as the Czech Consulate in New York as well as cultural associations and learned societies founded by various generations of Czechs who decided to settle in the New York area.**

2. VĚCNÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (náročnost, tvůrčí přístup, argumentace, logická struktura, teoretické a metodologické ukotvení, práce s prameny a literaturou, vhodnost příloh apod.):

**This MA dissertation concerns a topic that is quite demanding. The student has utilized logical argumentation and consulted a plethora of sources. There is evidence of historical knowledge, original research using survey techniques, and the theoretical grounding is solid throughout.**

3. FORMÁLNÍ A JAZYKOVÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (jazykový projev, správnost citace a odkazů na literaturu, grafická úprava, formální náležitosti práce apod.):

**There are no problems insofar as presentation, citation of sources, and other formal aspects are concerned.**

4. KONTROLA ORIGINALITY TEXTU

Prohlašuji, že jsem se seznámil/a s výsledkem kontroly originality textu závěrečné práce v systému:

[ ] Theses [XXX] Turnitin [ ] Ouriginal (Urkund)

Komentář k výsledku kontroly: **I find no problems with originality.**

5. STRUČNÝ KOMENTÁŘ HODNOTITELE (celkový dojem z diplomové práce, silné a slabé stránky, originalita myšlenek, naplnění cíle apod.):

**Daniel Richter elected to write his Master's dissertation on the evolution of the Czech community in New York and the preservation of its identity with a focus on associations established by different generations of Czech immigrants and the Czech Consulate. It has been my pleasure to serve as Daniel's supervisor. In the ensuing paragraphs, I will offer my comments on the treatise, which consists of an Introduction, four chapters, and a Conclusion.**

**The Introduction provides a clear roadmap of the work. The main point emphasized by Daniel is that this work demonstrates the challenges and complexities involved in maintaining one's ethnic identity in a faraway land. The content of each chapter is summarized and the reader is informed as to what to expect in the body of the dissertation. I think that the Introduction fulfills its purpose.**

**In Chapter 1, Daniel introduces the theoretical framework. The major existing works on Czech migration to the States are evaluated, as are other studies dealing with migration to the United States and the identity of migrants. When discussing national identity, Daniel not only defines the concept, but also emphasizes that it is not static and evolves over time. Both the positive and negative aspects of national identity are also scrutinized. The preservation of national culture is likewise addressed with an emphasis on the maintenance of language skills and cultural traditions. Daniel mentions some of the activities undertaken by the Czech community in order to further these aims. I am very impressed with this chapter, which demonstrates Daniel's grasp of the subject.**

**Chapter 2 represents an historical overview of Czech migration to the United States with an emphasis on notable individuals and their reasons for moving to North America. Daniel points to the significance of certain places in Czech New York. Schools, ethnic associations, and newspapers are portrayed and their respective significance is aptly explained. I think that this chapter is highly informative and arouses the curiosity of the reader as to what comes next.**

**The efforts of the Czech government to reach out to the diaspora by means of various institutions in New York forms the subject of Chapter 3. Particular emphasis is placed on the role of the Czech Consulate in New York. Daniel furnishes a meticulous account of all the activities performed by the Czech Consulate on behalf of Czech citizens and the propagation of Czech culture. As I last visited the Czech Consulate in New York about ten days ago, Daniel's illustrative depiction of its activities make them come alive in my mind. Daniel then delves into the activities of the Czech Center in New York, the Czech delegation to the United Nations, and other institutions in New York. Daniel's elaboration of the significance of these institutions and their respective roles in the preservation of Czech identity is rather impressive.**

**Chapter 4 deals with Daniel's original survey research and its results. With regard to the first generation of migrants, there is evidence of a strong tie to Czech culture. The second generation, on the other hand, senses a cultural duality meaning that both Czech and American culture are embraced. In subsequent generations (from the third generation onwards), a weakening of Czech cultural identity is observed. Factors influencing cultural identity are family ties, community activities, the influence of American culture, and personal interest. Daniel also surveyed members of the Czech community in New York on the extent of their use and knowledge of the Czech language, including the pursuit of language instruction. The factors influencing this are place of birth, family situation, personal motivation, and learning methods. As earlier, noteworthy differences between the generations exist. The factors influencing intergenerational communication in the Czech language include family atmosphere and support, degree of commitment to community ties, the influence of the English-language environment, and personal interest and motivation. Finally, Daniel surveyed the political and cultural reflections of some Czechs in New York. Factors involved here are interest in Czech politics, generational differences affecting interest in Czech politics, political positions vis-à-vis the American environment, and the impact of cultural reflection and cultural diplomacy. Again, differences have turned out to be largely of a generational nature. This chapter is of excellent quality.**

**In the Conclusion, Daniel recapitulates the arguments presented in the individual chapters and states that Czech national identity weakens in later generations. Several**

**potential remedies are suggested and Daniel calls for further research to be conducted on the matter.**

**I think that this work meets the requirements for a successful MA dissertation. I recommend a classification of A or B depending on Daniel's performance in the state examination.**

6. SPOLUPRÁCE S VEDOUCÍM PRÁCE (komunikace s vedoucím práce, schopnost reflektovat připomínky, posun od původního záměru apod.):

**Daniel and I had an excellent working relationship.**

7. OTÁZKY A PŘIPOMÍNKY DOPORUČENÉ K BLIŽŠÍMU VYSVĚTLENÍ PŘI OBHAJOBĚ (jedna až tři):

**Do you think that Czech cultural diplomacy in the United States will strengthen or weaken during the second Trump Administration? What are the possible scenarios?**

**Will likely disagreements with the current course of US politics encourage more Czechs in New York and elsewhere in the US to strengthen their ties to Czech culture? Please explain.**

8. **DOPORUČENÍ / NEDOPORUČENÍ K OBHAJOBĚ A NAVRHOVANÁ ZNÁMKA**

(A a B výborně, C a D velmi dobře, E dobře, F nevyhověl): **A or B depending on performance in the state examination**

Datum: **23 January 2025**

Podpis:

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Pozn.: Hodnocení píše k jednotlivým bodům, pokud nepíšete v textovém editoru, použijte při nedostatku místa zadní stranu nebo příložený list. V hodnocení práce se pokuste oddělit ty její nedostatky, které jsou, podle vašeho mínění, obhajobou neodstranitelné (např. chybí kritické zhodnocení pramenů a literatury), od těch věcí, které student může dobrou obhajobou napravit; poměr těchto dvou položek berte prosím v úvahu při stanovení konečné známky.