Master thesis of Romulo Corrada focuses the issue of young unauthorized migrants in the United States. The author puts emphasis primarily on the political discourse related to legislation covering their status and prospects. In the introductory part, wider theoretical framework for analysis is presented, based on critical theory. In the following segment, the issue of young undocumented migrants is introduced in relation to the proposed DREAM Act. The main part of the thesis focuses on conservative political discourse and its effectiveness to block progressive legislation. This is followed up by discussion of possible strategies to counter the negative conservative discourse, which includes both academic arguments as well as political alliances. The author concludes with a strong call for support of measures that would help young unauthorized migrants.

Methodologically, the thesis is based on assumptions of critical theory with regards to inherent racism and exploitation of immigrant workers of different ethnic background. This is justified, but I would appreciate some critical discussion of this approach – does it have any limitations? Is it able to explain all the paradoxes in the complex immigration debate? In the more specific sections of the
thesis, the author describes the main arguments and critically reflects on the conservative political discourse. However, there are no criteria for selecting particular instances and weighing relative importance of the speech acts under discussion. Key words like „amnesty“ or „alien“ could have been tracked during floor debates in U.S. Congress or in major media events. It would also help if the discourse became more clearly connected to actual voting behavior of members of Congress, especially with the Democrats opposed to the Dream Act. The conclusion is repetitive at times, and operates with notion of justice, which is not explored in the thesis that much. Therefore, the thesis looks more like a set of arguments supporting a preconceived notion than an academic answer to a research question. This approach is congruent with the critical school, but it should have been made clear from the beginning.

With respect to actual content, the thesis is very well researched and includes a number of sources. The issues are explained in detail and the reader gets a very comprehensive picture of the problem. The main arguments for and against the Dream Act are presented systematically and are subject to close scrutiny. The author uses the word „philosophical“ on several occasions in the text, but what he describes is more a theoretical framework than actual philosophical questions (even though these would be very interesting with respect to the migration phenomenon). The section about the struggle of blacks in Colombia does not fit the thesis that well, I would omit it in next versions. At least a brief mention of the Justice for Janitors would be more suitable in this context. Also the brief mention of blacks and hip-hop on page 27 would require some more clarification – connection to unauthorized migrants is not entirely clear. The author cites Marx, but not directly, only as interpreted by Tucker. For the argument about economic motivations underlying the conservative discourse, the author should have also focused on the fact that these same interests should work against total closing of the U.S.-Mexico border, as it would deprive them of the cheap undocumented labor to exploit. The author sidelines the psychological and cultural biases in the conservative discourse and makes them subordinate to economic motivations, but these two trends might actually be mutually reinforcing.

On the formal side, the thesis is very well written, with clear structure and flow. However, there are several stylistical errors, such as „that the pursue of a just legal solution“ on p. 18, „with suppose shared“ on p.24, „physical boundaries have weaken in their raison d'etre“ on p. 26, „who have fight back“ on p. 30, „if they are seeing as immigration officers“ on p. 38, „when an individual choose
to migrate“ on p. 43, „in order to attend this problem“ on p. 46, „these complaints were not prosperous“ on p. 67, „strong limitations face by these individuals“ on p. 71, „and by been paid less“ on p. 75, or „should be penalize“ on p. 93. There are otherwise very few spell-checking errors, only „current Republic party“ on p. 61. The footnotes and references follow the high standards of an academic work.

Overall, the master thesis serves as a very strong argument in favor of policies designed to help young unauthorized migrants. Coming from a specific theoretical perspective, the author brings together a number of well-researched arguments supporting the main claims. Despite some methodological issues that would require clarification and some more detailed editorial work, it is a high-quality work with a potential to contribute to the debate on the topic. The decision taken by President Obama concerning deportations might be a slight vindication of the arguments presented by the author. I therefore recommend the thesis for defense, with suggested grades between excellent and very good.

During the defense, I would ask the following questions: Is there any evidence that the conservative political discourse actually affected voting by members of Congress? Is there any evidence that the same economic interests that want to prevent legalization also work to keep the border semi-porous to ensure adequate supply of cheap labor? How do you distinguish between the role of economic interests and cultural stereotypes?

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