

**KARLOVA UNIVERZITA V PRAZE**  
**Fakulta sociálních věd**  
**Institut politologických studií**

*Master's Thesis Assessment*

**AUTHOR:** Milena Ačimovac

**TITLE OF THE THESIS:** Domination of ethnic identity in post-Dayton Bosnia and Herzegovina

**ASSESSED BY:** Mgr. Martin Riegl, PhD.

**ASSESSMENT TYPE:** Opponent

**1. ASSESSMENT OF THE THESIS CONTENT**

ASSESSMENT CATEGORIES	MARK
Relevancy of the topic in relation to the current scientific knowledge	2
Originality of the thesis, contribution to the science subject field	3/4
Integrity and scale of sources and literature relevant to the subject study	3
Ability for critical appraisal of the sources	2/3
Standards of working with sources	2
Methodology and its relevancy to the subject study and thesis goals	2
Logic of the thesis structure	3
Ability to argue, cohesion and coherence of the argument	4
Terminology in the relevant field	2/3
Adhesion to the citation norm	2
Language, stylistic and formal standard of the thesis	4

**COMMENTARY:**

The author has decided to analyze identity issue in post-Dayton Bosnia and Herzegovina still being split along the ethnic cleavage. Mrs.Acimovac has chosen undoubtedly relevant but difficult topic.

The thesis consists of 4 chapters (excluding introduction and conclusion): theoretical framework, BiH as Yugoslavia en miniature and post-Dayton BiH, Analysis of media discourse of the central news programs of two public broadcasters in January 2012, Hatred of the closest and death of multiculturalism.

She submitted the thesis which does not meet all formal criteria required by Faculty of Social Science. It has 90 550 characters or 50 pages which is barely over the minimum limit. Although the author declares as the main goal of her case study based thesis to prove discrimination within three ethnic groups in Bosnia, through the public television programs (using critical discourse analysis), hypothesis is missing. There also some other problems of formal character like grammar mistakes, misspellings etc.. The author also refers to chapter X (page 29) which is not in the table of contents. List of abbreviations includes shortcuts like WWII or EU which seems to be redundant for MA thesis level.

Mrs. Acimovac definitely analyzed huge amount of sources and showed her ability to apply them, but on the other side I find more than striking that the text of Dayton Peace Agreement or website of Office of High Representative (and its decisions, findings, etc.) is missing in the list of sources.

To sum up this review the author failed in her attempt to apply various theories and concept related to politics of identity to case study of BiH. The author also offers short excursion into history of BiH which is too flat and descriptive to have some positive effect on the whole thesis

Some of conclusions and statements which occur throughout the whole thesis like *Ethnic identity is dominant in the BiH society and as such is problematic, Politics and ethnicity is a every day topic in BiH* are moreless trivial. I do lack deep analysis of empirical data which could verify or falsify statements like *Continuing, every election, after DPA, embraced power of ethnic identity: majority of voters made their choices based on ethnical basis (p.37)*. Graphs or charts would be more than useful for this reason.

Overall I do grade thesis 4 (failed).

## **2. QUESTIONS FOR THE DEFENSE**

## **3. SUGGESTED MARK**

**The opponent suggest that this paper should be graded as good/failed.**

Date: 17/08/2012

Signature: