

IMESS dissertation						
Name/code:	Evgeniya Konovalova					
Dissertation title:	The Effects of Western Broadcasting on the Soviet People in Glasnost and Perestroika Period: The Case of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty					
Scale: 5 - excellent, 4 - good, 3 - satisfactory, 2 - poor, 1 - very poor						
	5	4	3	2	1	
ARGUMENT:						
Clearly defined research question	5					No clearly defined research question
Answers research question		4				Does not answer research question
Well structured		4				Badly structured
Shows theoretical awareness		4				Shows no theoretical awareness
Conceptual clarity			3			Conceptual confusion
Empirically appropriate & robust	5					Full of empirical errors
Logical and coherent		4				Illogical and incoherent
Analytical		4				Descriptive
Critical		4				Uncritical
Shows independent thought		4				Does not show independent thought
SOURCES & USAGE:						
Evidence of reading/research	5					No evidence of reading/research
Effective use of sources/data	5					Ineffective use of sources/data
WRITING STYLE:						
Clear	5					Obscure
Good punctuation		4				Poor punctuation
Grammatically correct	5					Grammatically incorrect
PRESENTATION:						
Appropriate length	5					Too long/short
Good referencing		4				Poor/inconsistent referencing
Good spelling	5					Poor spelling
Good bibliography	5					Poor bibliography
Deducted for late submission:		Deducted for faulty referencing:			Mark*: 84/A/1	
Charles marker: Jiří Vykoukal		Signed:			Date: September 1, 2012	

* Mark: A = 70+; B = 65-69; C = 60-64; D = 55-59; E = 50-54; F = fail, less than 50

Scheme of award (assessment criteria):

	Charles University**	IMESS
Excellent	Výborně [1]	A
Very Good	Velmi dobře [2]	B
Good	Velmi dobře [2.5]	C
Satisfactory	Dobře [3]	D
Sufficient	Dobře [3.5]	E
Fail	Neprospěl [4]	F

CONTINUES OVERLEAF

NOTE: Please provide substantive and detailed feedback

Comments (at least 300 words)

E. Konovalova's dissertation poses as its main priorities a definition of aims of the RFE/RL broadcasting to the USSR in years of glasnost and perestroika, analysis of the way of presenting and affecting of the Soviet reality and of the impact of this broadcasting on the Soviet public. Theoretical background is rooted dominantly in agenda setting and framing concepts while the source background refers partially to RFE/RL archives, partially to interviews with relevant people from the RFE/RL who have been in charge of the broadcasting agenda relate to the late USSR; methodology combines both quantitative (data analysis) and qualitative (interpretation) approaches.

Structure of the dissertation - I would propose historical background and RFL/RL chapter first, then the rest.

The main problem I see is that the topic is located on the border between media studies and political science, but the latter is less developed part of dissertation. The author uses terms like democracy, totalitarian, communist etc., however, we do not know the content. If RFE/RL was presenting the Soviet reality, which was the idea of the Soviet system behind this presentation. Also, if we speak that the broadcasting was developing democratic awareness, what's the content of the word? Is the sense of "democratic awareness" really democratic awareness of shall we rather speak about the negative content of the word?

In general – very good dissertation!

Specific questions for oral defence (at least 100 words):

1. Was the RFE/RL broadcasting developing "democratic awareness" or just destructing communism?
2. Was the RFE/RL setting agenda and framing completely free of political interfering?