

**The tutor's review on the PhD thesis of Kuanysh Nurpeisova
"Reproductive behavior of repatriates from Mongolia and ethnic Kazakhs in Mongolia"**

The PhD dissertation of Kuanysh Nurpeisova "Reproductive behavior of repatriates from Mongolia and ethnic Kazakhs in Mongolia" consists of 374 numbered pages. All together, 257 pages out of these 374 ones represent the own text of the dissertation including its title sheets, contents, and the lists of tables, figures, maps, photos, schemes, appendices and references. The text itself has 221 pages. In addition, there are 117 pages of appendices in the submitted dissertation.

The thesis is devoted to reproductive behavior of repatriates from Mongolia and ethnic Kazakhs in Mongolia, one of the main "political" themes behind the entire process of repatriation of ethnic Kazakhs which roots are going to the second half of the 1980's, to the later period of Gorbatschov's Perestroika. At that time, in the context of general release, the first Kazakhs living abroad, in particular in Mongolia, moved to their historical homeland. Political sensitiveness of the theme is given by the fact or better assumption mentioned in many political documents that substantially higher fertility of ethnic Kazakhs living abroad is an important driving force of the repatriation and justification of its massive and costly support from the side of the Kazakhstani government. Being aware of the fact that migration is usually rather strong inhibitor of demographic reproduction, Kuanysh Nurpeisova tried to examine this political assumption, to quantify existing differences and to provide a detail realistic picture on reproductive behavior, both realized and intended, of ethnic Kazakhs. For this purpose she collected through her own survey a unique set of data allowing well structured and detailed comparative analysis. Based on these data completed by available statistics and information found in miscellaneous secondary sources, from personal interviews, archive documents, political and administrative materials, articles in mass media to academic literature, the author prepared an extensive, detailed and well documented answer on the core question, what reproductive behavior and intentions the repatriated ethnic Kazakhs have and how much they differ from behavior and intentions of those who remained or are still living in Mongolia.

The entire dissertation has a standard structure and makes an impression of compact, logically structured text with some exceptions discussed below. It consists of 12 chapters. Illogically and against all adopted rules and recommendations, the author also numerates the references and appendices. The presented doctoral research theme, goals and objectives, research questions and hypotheses, and structure of the work are specified in the Introduction. Basic terminology containing several rather special terms and specification of some more general ones precedes an overview of literature, the third chapter of the dissertation. Conceptual framework of author's research is represented by theoretical concepts divided by the problem areas they predominantly address: sociological concepts, demographic concepts, conceptual basis of reproductive behavior and concept of planned behavior. All particular concepts traced by the author in her work are put into more or less explicit context of reality and findings related to observed populations, including references to the data presented in following text of the dissertation. In the fifth chapter Kuanysh Nurpeisova moves to the studied part of reality. She starts with listening and explanation of differences between Kazakhs living in Kazakhstan and ethnic Kazakhs settled in Mongolia. For the first approach to reproductive differences, the attempt of their explanation and specification of wider contexts of those differences she has used genealogical tree of two geographically remote but in particular sense relative families in this part of the work. The sixth chapter presents history of Kazakh diaspora abroad and its formation, as well as historical features and similarities of repatriation processes in general, and repatriation of ethnic Kazakhs in particular.

The seventh chapter is devoted to a detailed description of the sample survey designed and realized during the doctoral research. The subchapter 7.3 "Data sources and methods" is its part, regardless the fact that elaboration of this theme should be, logically and in concordance with the general recommendations, allocated in the technical part of the dissertation, prior to the chapter 5 "Social-cultural background" and should definitely precede the current chapter 7 itself.

The core of entire thesis is represented by chapters 8-11 which are further divided on dozens of subchapters of other two hierarchical levels. Chapter 8 deals with reproductive behavior (as well as attitudes and intentions) of repatriates – oralmans and ethnic Kazakhs living in Mongolia, chapter 9 examines different aspects of their living conditions, chapter 10 address several, mostly socio-cultural aspects of reproduction and corresponding factors having influence on resulting reproductive behavior observed in the same two perspectives. Modeling and evaluation of mutual interaction of investigated variables are the content of the eleventh chapter. Chapter 12 is devoted to research conclusions.

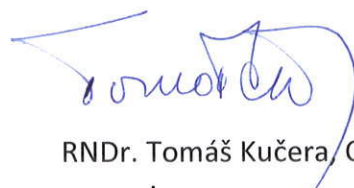
The appendices provide, among others, full documentation of carried out field research including design and realization of the sample survey. They also contain supplementary tables and a graph with data and research results, description of procedures used during advanced statistical analysis and schemes.

Regardless the fact that in any work of such extent it is always possible to make some things better, I would like to make two critical remarks to the structure of the work. First, I am missing the logics of allocating research questions and hypotheses to the introductory part of the dissertation and the same in the case of already mentioned missing chapter addressing the topic of data availability and quality as well as the question of methodology, the chapter which should logically follow the part dealing with research questions and hypotheses. Missing statistical data implies need of carrying a sample survey and not *vice versa* as it could be concluded from allocation of the part dealing with data availability. I am also missing at least a brief description and discussion of the approaches adopted by the author and representing the methodological framework for entire doctoral research. For instance there is no word about demographic approach to the problem and its specificities, as well as about comparative method applied in the entire work, across all studied questions.

On the other side, as a supervisor, I would like to stress the fact that the work is a result of long term effort and systematic work of the doctoral student. She approached her theme actively and with a deep interest. During her doctoral research she met and has to overcome several problems of different nature which tested and approved her abilities to acquire new knowledge and skills and to apply them on the required academic level when searching for solution of particular research questions. Her work is not mistakes and errors free but fortunately these mistakes are mostly of formal nature. Therefore they should not represent a principal obstacle in the process of the submitted dissertation defense.

In sum, I ^{am} pleased to recommend the doctoral dissertation of Kuanysh Nurpeisova "Reproductive behavior of repatriates from Mongolia and ethnic Kazakhs in Mongolia" to the Commission for state doctoral examinations in Demography at the Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague for its defense.

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