 Petra Poncarová’s work deals with the very complex notion of identity on the backdrop of the many characters and locations in Salman Rushdie’s *The Satanic Verses*. Petra manages to discuss a wide range of theoretical issues related primarily to identity in the novel and yet provide an effective analysis of particular passages from the novel itself. She reads the examples of quests for identity in the novel as often unintentional and producing quite an unstable palimpsest of a self. These identity quests can take unexpected forms and their results are never complete. She points out correctly that identity constructed as an unchanging, stable singularity is questioned in the novel.

Quoting John McLeod and Homi Bhabha, two prominent theoreticians of postcolonial identities, Petra suggests that Rushdie’s postcolonial characters are necessarily faced with the ambivalent nature and “contradictory positioning” of their colonised selves which, on the one hand, stand inside the colonial discourse as its object, and on the other, outside it as the Other of the coloniser. Nevertheless, such binary oppositions, be they reflected in the two main characters, in the two cities, or as classic examples of post-colonial dualities of coloniser/colonised, insider/outsider, nativedispersed, are destabilised and intermingled in the novel.

The question of intention in identity construction as opposed to identity formed from the outside is a significant problem the novel, as well as the thesis, try to discuss. Could this contradiction be more specified?

In what way does the novel work with the concept of mimicry as theorised for example by Homi Bhabha?

How does the dialogic nature of the novel (Bakhtin) manifest itself?

What about the identity of the narrator? How is it constructed?

**oponentka:**

Mgr. Halka Varhaníková

Práci doporučuji k obhajobě a předběžně hodnotím jako výbornou.

V Praze dne 5.9.2011