

DISSERTATION DEFENCE PROTOCOL

Name of candidate: **Mgr. Štěpán Ripka**

Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Humanities,
University of Bayreuth, Faculty of Cultural Studies

Doctoral programme at Charles University: „Antropologie“,
Doctoral programme at University of Bayreuth: „Sociology“

September 19, 2014, Prague

Title of the thesis: *Pentecostalism among Czech and Slovak Roma: The religiosity of Roma and the practices of inclusion of the Roma in the brotherhood in salvation. Autonomy and Conversions among Roma in Márov*

Chairman of examination board:

Prof. Jan Sokol, Ph.D., CSc. (FHS UK)

Members of examination board:

Mgr. Yasar AbuGhosh, Ph.D. (FHS UK)

Prof. Dr. Bernt Schnettler (Universität Bayreuth)

Prof. PhDr. Josef Kandert, CSc. (FSV UK)

Doc. PhDr. Zdeněk Vojtíšek, Th.D. (ETF UK)

Expert reviewers:

Mgr. Tomáš Hrustič, Ph.D. (ÚE SAV)

PD Dr. Asonzeh Ukah (University of Cape Town)

The defence committee has 5 members

Votes for Pass..... members

Votes for Fail..... members

Abstain from voting.... members

The result of defence: Pass ~~Fail~~

Discussion during the defense of Thesis of S. Ripka

Held on 19th September 2014 at the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University in Prague.

Title of the dissertation: " Pentecostalism among Czech and Slovak Roma: The religiosity of Roma and the practices of inclusion of the Roma in the brotherhood in salvation. Autonomy and Conversions among Roma in Márov."

Present: Prof. Jan Sokol, Ph.D., CSc (chair of the committee), Mgr. Yasar AbuGhosg. Ph.D. (Charles University supervisor), Prof. Dr. Bernt Schnettler (University of Bayreuth supervisor), Prof. PhDr. Josef Kandert, CSc. (Charles University member of the committee), Doc. PhDr. Zdeněk Vojtíšek, Th.D. (Charles University member of the committee), Mgr. Štěpán Rika (candidate).

The chair of the committee, professor Sokol, welcomed all present and thanked them for their coming to the defence which would be conducted under a "cotutelle" arrangement. He introduced the members of the committee and invited the supervisors to introduce the candidate.

The candidate acquainted all present with the content of his dissertation.

During the presentation Prof. Sokol asked about details of the communication between the German Gypsy pastor and the attendants of the Bible school

Answer– he spoke German and Sinti and it was translated to Czech and some of the Roma learned Sinti in order to understand him directly. The Bible used was the Czech Bible Kralicka.

Answer to questions of reviewers

Dr. Hrustic: Asked about the speech code during the lectures at the Bible school?

Answer: Taken from the recordings. Some speakers were using very academic language, others with experience from African missions were using plain language – both seem to work.

Prof. Ukah: The important work of Lewis Rambo was not included in the Thesis.

Answer: This work was taken of a more psychological direction. But the stages of conversion according to Rambo should have been included.

Prof. Ukah: Gave some recommendations for the possible future publishing of the work.

Answer: The methodological part was written for the purpose of the Thesis in a very extensive form and would be shortened for possible publication.

General discussion

Prof. Kandert: Asked about the position of the candidate in the studied community.

Answer: Prof. Ukah criticized in his reviewer's report too close participation in the community, on the other hand Dr. Hrustic took it for an advantage enabling to obtain much more information.

Prof. Kandert: Asked for closer explanation of the influence of candidate's own conversion

Answer: The own conversion helped in understanding the converts and their problems showing that he is "on the same wave" with them. The problem of objectivity by being included into the converted community had both drawbacks and advantages.

Prof. Schnettler: What was the effect of the research on the position of the community?

Answer: Participating in the life of the congregation served more the research than trying to change the situation. The close and long contact is more effective than isolated discussion the questionnaire.

Dr. Abu Ghosh: What was the role of the conversion narrative compared to other narratives as life stories?

Answer: Illustrated by a narrative of a convert made 14 years ago. The conversion narratives are the only ones that succeed to change the images of Roma from undeserving to deserving.

Prof. Sokol: Expressed his scepticism about the autonomy, hierarchy, and remote authority.

Answer: The duality in the autonomy/oppression should have been stressed in the conclusions. When the power is closer through subjectivation, the people are more influenced even by the remote authority .

Prof. Sokol: Mentioned the problem of the structure of the language for presenting the conversion narrative – in particular the use of past tense.

Answer: This point was not discussed in the Thesis. The conversion narrative is a "fiction" and may be delivered in any language. It was, however, given in the "biblical" language. The pastor in this concrete case was presenting himself as a saint – his action awns a textualization of certain saint from the Bible.

doc. Vojtisek : What kind of Pentecostalism this community belonged to?

Answer: Difficult to say – many influences, various backgrounds (catholic, protestant,...).

doc. Vojtisek: Connection to the Faith movement – you should feel happy, be prosperous..

Answer: When healing was promised and did not come, the unhealed tended to blame their own circumstances. Pastors stopped promising.