

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

**PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ MAGISTERSKÉ PRÁCE**  
**(Posudek oponenta / Opponent evaluation)**

Name of student: JoEllen Lukavec Koester  
Title of MA thesis: CURRENT 'WELCOMING' AND RECEIVING COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AS AN IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION STRATEGY: COMPARING SELECTED CITIES OF THE U.S., CANADA, AND EUROPE

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The main idea of this MA thesis suggests that there are certain patterns and solutions in the integration of newcomers in North American cities that can be successfully employed also on the European continent. The author of this thesis analyzed closely the integration of newcomers into the receiving societies (or communities) in selected North American and European cities, such as Austin, Nashville, Dayton, Halifax, Birmingham, and Prague. Birmingham and Prague, according to the author, are the cities standing at the crossroad where they will have to start to solve the question of newcomers. In this point, both European cities can select to employ either effective or ineffective strategies. The author holds the opinion that the American experience can be successfully transferred to European conditions.

In her conclusions, the author claims that strategies used by Welcoming America and the Halifax Connector Program are the best way to create immigrant friendly cities. By creating a friendly multicultural environment of integration and inclusion rather than exclusion, an increase in criminality of any kind (including terrorism) would be averted. The student acknowledges a need for much deeper research on those aspects of the multicultural inclusion of migrants, shared by most academics in the field, but still claims that modern cities will not be immune to migration pressures. Therefore, it would be better to start with those programs even in the cities without a tradition of migration and without experience with migrants in order to prevent abuse of newcomers. Any abuse of newcomers will sooner or later lead to a growth of radicalism and animosity on both sides, namely the immigrants themselves and the host community.

This thesis is logically composed and deeply rooted in comparative methodology and multicultural studies. The author collected a large amount of academic as well as other relevant sources to support her arguments. Her judgments, based upon collected academic knowledge, are logical and sound.

In all aspects, this thesis reached fully its declared goals. It also met all required criteria and can be defended in front of the examination committee.

I do suggest an EXCELLENT or VERY GOOD mark.

Date:

Signature:

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Mgr. Petr Anděl, Ph.D.