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Comments by William French,  
On the Undergraduate Dissertation of Gabriela Grunová:  
**“Gentrification: Particularities and Intricacies of the Process in the Case Study of  
Harlem, New York City”**  
19 June 2006

Overall Grade: 2

Comments:

As I come from a very different academic system and approach than the one here, I hesitate to evaluate your work, not being sufficiently familiar with what expectations and standards ought normally to apply. By North American standards, I would say that your work does not show enough of your own ideas and thoughts; nevertheless, it does seem to be a rather intelligently organised and coherent recapitulation of the work of others; and it certainly is clear that you have had to put thought into making sense of what others say, which is not at all a bad thing! Were you writing in North America, I think, we would want to see more of yourself put into it, i.e., why do you think that this topic matters?

In fact, I would imagine that even by European standards, more might be expected of you on this note. You have not really told us why you have undertaken this study, or what might be the implications of your conclusion. Put simply, I might just take from your paper that this is nothing more than another finding confirming the maxim that the world is more complex than it at first appears to be. Your paper would be stronger if you would tell the reader about the broader implications of this particular finding, and if at the start you would do more to entice your reader into reading on. For instance, what does this imply for urban studies or urban planning? Or does it contribute anything to our understanding of political phenomena, i.e., something about unintended consequences?

Having said that, I found your writing to be informative and coherently organised, and your choice of topic to be quite interesting. Keep up the good work.

I wish you well with your studies.

